

Hafa Adai!

Pacific Rim wants IPI's properties sold. **PAGE 2**

Submission information for PUA, FPUC applications. **Page 7**

75¢

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXX, Issue No. 120

www.saipantribune.com

THURSDAY JUNE 18, 2020

www.facebook.com/saipantribune

FROM 56K TO OVER 90K

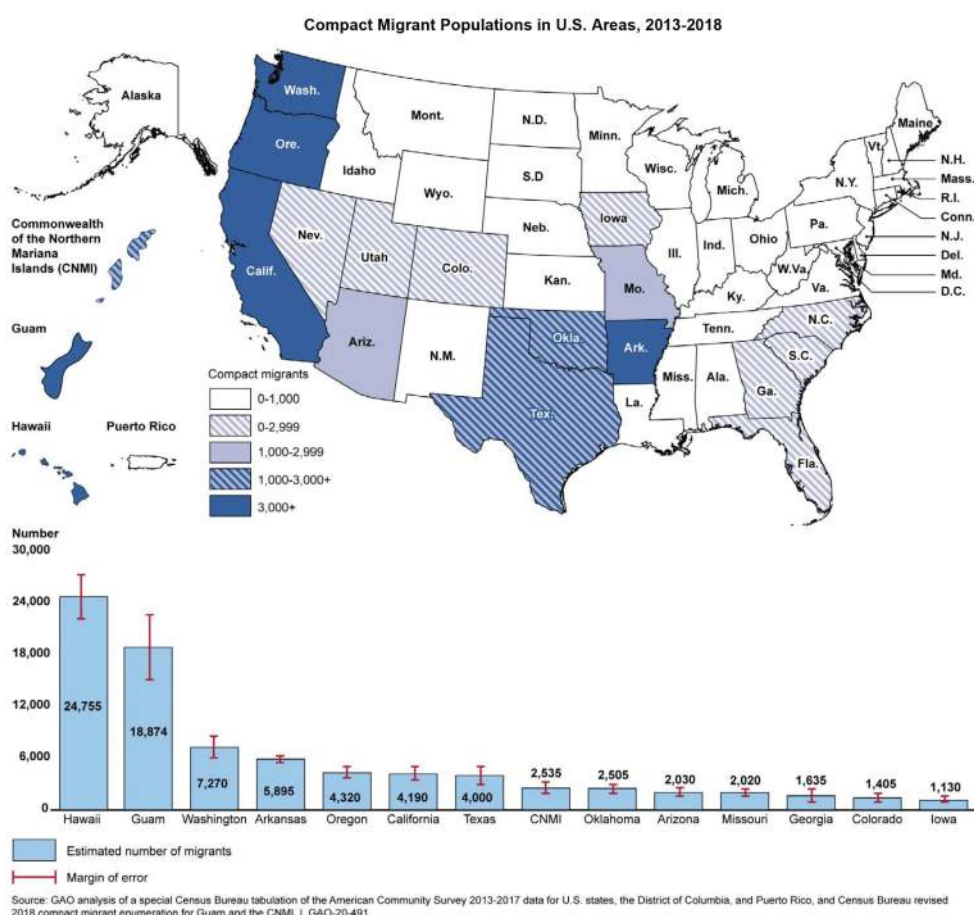
GAO: Compact migrants grew

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 94,000 migrants from three countries with a Compact agreement with the United States live and work in the U.S. and its territories, according to a new study. Historically, many live in Hawaii, Guam, and the CNMI, but from 2013 to 2018, half lived in the U.S.

See GAO on Page 4

Image Source: Compacts of Free Association, U.S. Government Accountability Office, June 2020



Notes: For U.S. areas shown with solid shading, the 90 percent confidence interval for the population point estimate falls entirely in one category (i.e., 0-1,000; 1,000-2,999; or 3,000+). For U.S. areas shown with variegated shading, the 90 percent confidence interval for the population point estimate spans the two categories indicated by the shading.

As the economy reopens, scientists still have a lot to learn about coronavirus immunity

By MELISSA HEALY
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Who among us is immune to the coronavirus?

Six months and close to 7.5 million infections into the

See ECONOMY on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, June 17, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	186	2	188
Recovered	169	1	170
Active	12	1	13
Deaths	6*	0	6*
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			9,210

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	30	0	30
Active	9	0	9
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested**			8,169

*Total includes a sailor from the USS Theodore Roosevelt.

**Total includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

MVA's Iakopo's contract is extended

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In their first board meeting since March, the Marianas Visitors Authority board approved yesterday to extend Priscilla Maratita Iakopo's contract as MVA managing director for another year.



Iakopo

other year.

Iakopo will also be getting a salary increase. The amount of how much her salary will be increased was not stated at the meeting. In her remarks at the meeting, Iakopo said, "I want [to take this] opportunity to thank you all for

See IAKOPO on Page 4

Resolution opposing destructive military training advances

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As the U.S. Navy waits for public comments to their plan to continue training and testing activities on Farallon de Medinilla and the CNMI, activist groups are doing their

» Extension to 30-day comment period sought

See RESOLUTION on Page 4



Babauta



PUA/FPUC APPLICATIONS NOW ACCEPTED

The CNMI Department of Labor is now accepting applications for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian until Dec. 26, 2020. On Capital Hill, the application line is from 8am to 12pm, Monday to Friday.

KRIZEL TUAZON

Story on Page 7

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Garapan Restaurant Café and Grill serves dishes for the soul in a time of the pandemic.

PAGE 11



NATION

Lafayette Square could decide President Donald Trump's legacy—and re-election prospects.

PAGE 12



LIFE & STYLE

Workers in Paris are preparing the Eiffel Tower for reopening next week.

PAGE 15



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Woman gets 90-day prison term for harboring illegal alien child

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court imposed yesterday a 90-day prison term on a woman who was convicted of harboring an illegal alien child.

Upon her release, Lili Zhang Tydingco will be placed on three years of supervised release. Also, as soon as she gets out of prison, she is directed to report to an im-

migration official for deportation proceedings. If deportation does not occur and she is released pending further immigration proceedings, she shall immediately report to the U.S. Probation Office to begin her term of supervised release and must perform 50 hours of community service.

Tydingco was also ordered to pay a \$500 fine and \$100 in special assessment fee.

In her order yesterday, U.S.

District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona said that Tydingco shall remain free for the meantime but must self-surrender to the U.S. Marshal Service when notified to do so.

Bruce Berline served as the court-appointed counsel for Tydingco. Joey San Nicolas also appeared as co-counsel for her. Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe represented the U.S. government.

On Sept. 9, 2019, a federal jury unanimously found Tydingco guilty of harboring an illegal alien, which carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment. The prosecution called six witnesses, including the then-15-year-old Chinese girl who is the alleged harbored illegal alien. The defense called two witnesses. This was the second trial in the case.

In the first trial in June

2016, the jury found Tydingco guilty of harboring an alien and her husband, Francisco Tydingco, guilty of aiding and abetting the harboring. In December 2016, Manglona sentenced Lili Tydingco to 10 months' imprisonment with credit for time served. She sentenced Francisco Tydingco to 21 months of imprisonment, with credit for time served. The Tydingcos appealed to

the Ninth Circuit to reverse their conviction and vacate their sentences. In 2018, the Ninth Circuit reversed the convictions and remanded the case to the District Court for a new trial.

A superseding indictment was subsequently filed against Lili Tydingco. The U.S. government then moved to drop the case against Francisco Tydingco. The court granted the motion.



CNMI Public School System officials, led by Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada, speak before the members of the House Education Committee last Tuesday on Capital Hill.

IVA MAURIN

PSS aims to enable Web access for students

By **IVA MAURIN**
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Public School System's goal is to provide laptops and iPads for every student.

Speaking before the House Education Committee on Tuesday, Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada said that PSS has two goals for the summer and the opening of schools: laptops and iPads for

every student and internet accessibility for all families and students.

"Those two things will be our priority, and we are almost halfway there with our Education Stabilization fund money," he said.

With the pandemic, PSS has closed all schools and migrated all classes online as part of precautionary measures to

See PSS on Page 4

IN FILING 3RD PETITION FOR WRIT OF EXECUTION AGAINST IPI,

Contractor wants to collect money, cars, furniture, equipment from IPI's casino

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In a bid to recover costs and get paid for the work it did on the Garapan casino resort of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, Pacific Rim Land Development LLC now wants to collect and sell properties inside the Imperial Pacific Resort & Casino in Garapan.

Pacific Rim, through counsel Colin M. Thompson, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Tuesday to issue a third writ of execution



Thompson

that would allow it to remove or identify IPI's personal property at the resort and casino to satisfy a \$6.9-million judgment against IPI. That includes furniture, fixtures, equipment, cash, and vehicles in the casino, such as two limousines, three buses, seven vans, and four trailer trucks.

The lawyer asked the court to have such personal property either removed by Pacific Rim for safekeeping or preserved in place pending judicial sale—all under the authority of the District Court and U.S. Marshals Service.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona earlier granted Pacific Rim's petitions for two

writs of execution that order the U.S. Marshals Service to seize IPI's money from four banks and two title companies on Saipan to satisfy the \$6.9-million judgment. It is not clear yet whether the U.S. Marshal Service has already done that. Manglona found Pacific Rim's applications for the writs of execution to have

met the requirements of Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and a Commonwealth statute.

Last April 27, Manglona entered a judgment in favor of Pacific Rim in the amount of \$5.65

million against IPI for breach of promissory note. She later amended the judgment to incorporate pre-judgment interest and attorneys' fees, boosting the amount to \$6.9 million, plus post-judgment interest. IPI then appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Pacific Rim is suing IPI and five unnamed alleged co-conspirators for breach of contract (construction and promissory note), and unjust enrichment.

IPI brought counterclaims against Pacific Rim for promissory fraud, fraud in the inducement as to the promissory note, violation of Consumer Protection Act, and breach of contract.



2019 FRONTIER CLEARANCE

NISSAN INTELLIGENT MOBILITY

For the Best Dad Ever!



Now starting at

\$148*

per paycheck

Get \$1000 Shopping Spree at Joeten Superstore.

Happy Father's Day!

Promo is valid for June 19-24, 2020 only.

Visit us at www.joetenmotors.com

TEL. 234-5562 • SHOWROOM HOURS: MON - FRI 8AM - 5PM • SAT 8AM - 12PM
Vehicle may not be exactly as shown • Some conditions apply • While Supplies last.



Joeten Motors
POWERED BY YOU

Like us on Facebook

*2019 FRONTIER KING CAB S 2WD. With 20% down at 3.5% APR on approved credit at 26 pay periods per year for 6 years. Total deferred financing \$23,086.15.

Cabrera leads Hopwood promotion

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hopwood Middle School's promoting class of 317 eighth graders led by class valedictorian Alexis Marie P. Cabrera received their certificates under the new norm—drive-thru style—at their home campus in Chalan Piao last Thursday.

Cabrera, who had the highest grade point average among her fellow promotees, was also named the Board of Education awardee and class valedictorian.

Christine M. Retirado was named the class salutatorian for having the second highest GPA and was the recipient of the Commissioner of Education Award.

In her speech, Cabrera thanked her Hopwood teachers and administration as well as the Public School System officials for allowing the students to celebrate their promotion on home turf.

"Although this campus is partly in shambles, the emotions attached to this place will always have a special place in our hearts. This is where our middle school journey started and where it will end," she said. Hopwood right now is sharing space with Koblerville Elementary School after Super Typhoon Yutu destroyed The Hopwood campus in Chalan Piao.

Cabrera said she hopes that the new campus will soon begin construction to serve as a permanent home for future students. "I hope we can work toward that dream," she said.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges it has brought to education, Retirado said quarantine has proved that learning is not confined to a classroom.

"It is still a long road ahead for each and every one of us, but I have no doubt in my mind that we have all become better and stronger individuals, ready to face the challenges of what lies ahead. I see a bright future for our generation and the generations to follow," she said.

In her speech, HMS principal Dr. Rizalina Liwag said the promotees showed resilience after Super Typhoon Yutu destroyed their school in October 2018, and were molded by other adversities. "You have become even stronger as you face many difficulties in the tents that were your temporary classrooms," she said.

Liwag added that the students developed the ability to adapt to the many uncertainties brought by the COVID-19 pandemic because of these adversities.

The following are the rest of the awards given out during Hopwood's drive-thru gradua-

tion ceremony.

■ Board of Education Award – Alexis Marie P. Cabrera

■ Commissioner of Education Award – Christine M. Retirado

■ School Leadership Award – Jane Nicole C. Mozunder

■ Principal's List Award – Ye Zhi Sablan, Paulo Jerome N. Quitado, Hana Rhys L. Diaz, Julie Ann V. Capayas, Ma. Abigail Nicole F. Alovera, Aisha Erica M. Lansangan, and Lawrence S. Tubera

■ Best in Social Studies – Alexis Marie P. Cabrera and Ma. Abigail Nicole F. Alovera

■ Best in Mathematics – Pony Tang and Jaimer Shawn S. Casama

■ Best in Chamorro Carolinian Heritage Language Studies – Alexis Marie P. Cabrera and Paulo Jerome N. Quidato

■ Best in Science – Raja L. Sevugan and Destiny Jade C. Pangelinan

■ Best in English Language Arts – Christine M. Retirado and Ye Zhi Sablan

■ Best in Physical Education – Christine M. Retirado

■ Best in Middle School Leadership Corps – Mechaella De Ramos

■ Best in Computer Literacy – Alexis Marie P. Cabrera

■ Best in Agriculture – Miracle Joy C. Aldan



YOUR DEPOSITS ARE INSURED.

Bank of Saipan deposits are guaranteed by a payment bond up to \$250,000 per account.



BANKOFSAIPAN.COM | GARAPAN - (670) 233-6260/2 | TINIAN - (670) 433-0332/9 | ROTA - (670) 532-2265

Regulation I Deposit Insurance Notice: Bank of Saipan deposits are insured by a private payment guaranty, which will pay up to \$250,000 per account if it fails. Bank of Saipan is not federally insured. If it fails, the Federal Government does not guarantee that you will get your money back.

Take on the Galaxy

Get **\$50 OFF** your plan with select Samsung phones.



ite.net itecnmi itecnmi

Terms and conditions apply. 12-month contract required. Offer valid with Samsung Galaxy S10 model and higher. Subject to credit check. See stores or visit ite.net for details.



 **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**
ARFF live fire exercise today

The Commonwealth Ports Authority's Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting personnel will conduct a live fire exercise this morning, June 18, 2020, beginning at 10am at the CPA Fire

Training Facility. As a result, large plumes of black smoke may be seen around the airport. Please do not be alarmed. (PR)

CPA sets new airport procedures

Effective today, June 18, 2020, the Commonwealth Ports Authority has set the following departure drop-off

and arrival pick-up procedures for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. There will be no waiting allowed at the terminal.

FOR DEPARTURES:

- Only departure drop-offs allowed.
- Only ticketed passengers or those needing assistance will be allowed inside the Departure Terminal.

■ Passenger "farewells" could be done either upon drop-off or in the main parking lot.

FOR ARRIVALS:

- Drive-thru pick-ups only.
- People waiting to pick up a passenger must wait in the main parking lot. (PR)

ECONOMY*From Page 1*

COVID-19 pandemic, scientists are just now inching their way toward answering that question.

For those who have weathered a bout with the virus, there are promising signs that protection follows.

But understanding the extent of true immunity is an exercise in humility, scientists caution. And the stakes couldn't be higher: Public health efforts to defeat coronavirus—from antibody testing and "immune passports" to the use of convalescent plasma and

the design of a new vaccine—depend on understanding who is immune, and why.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's leading expert on infectious diseases, called the emerging evidence on coronavirus immunity "confusing," "perplexing" and a "a bit unusual."

"Here's the deal," Fauci said in a recent interview. "One can say that if you have recovered from infection, it is highly likely you'll be protected from reinfection for a finite period of time, varying from person to person because of biologically variability. We don't know how long that finite period will be.

It could be years, or a year."

Two studies published this week offered support for the hope that some people have, indeed, earned immunity to coronavirus, and that it can be roughly measured. But as the economy reopens, the same findings should temper the expectations of political leaders who are counting on armies of the recovered to lead a charge back to normalcy.

The new studies shed light on how many patients emerge from coronavirus infection with so-called neutralizing antibodies—the kind that can, in theory and for an unknown stretch of time, protect a person from re-infection.

IAKOPO*From Page 1*

trusting me," and acknowledged that her staff are the backbone of MVA and that she would not be able to carry out her duties without them. Iakopo acknowledged that tourism is the "No. 1 economic driver" of the CNMI and that she will continue to do the best that she can and to grow and strengthen the CNMI's tourism industry.

"I [will continue] to seek your

guidance and your continued advice as we continue on this journey," said Iakopo. "We want to also ensure that we come back with a lot of strength and unity through these steps."

Iakopo was appointed MVA managing director in May 13, 2019. Iakopo also served as interim chief financial officer at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. Before going to MVA, she served as director of CHCC's procurement and supply division. Her lack of experience in the tourism sector at that time raised some concerns

but, according to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres pointed out that he had previously appointed people who did not have experience in specific fields.

"As a governor I have done that in the past. And that's me, giving opportunities for those who have not been given and for all whether they are young, new to the government or private sector," he said.

Torres said he is a strong believer that "if you give an individual the opportunity, it's up to them if they excel or not."

GAO*From Page 1*

mainland.

In the study done by the U.S. Government Accountability Office, and based on Census Bureau data covering 2005 to 2009, 2013 to 2017, and 2018, Compact migrants in the United States grew by an estimated 68%, from about 56,345 to about 94,399.

The Compact migrant population in the CNMI is 2,535, based on the GAO analysis of the Census Bureau data.

Compact migrants are citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia (Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae), Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Republic of Palau, as well as their U.S.-born children and grandchildren younger than 18 years. The U.S. Compacts of Free Association allows eligible citizens to migrate to the United States and its territories without visa and labor certification requirements. According to the GAO study, Compact migrants move to U.S. areas for a range of reasons, including greater economic and educational opportunities, better access to health care, a desire to join family members in the United States, and a wish for greater personal freedom.

As of November 2019, Compact migrants who are not U.S. citizens are eligible for select federal programs, on conditions, including Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance, Emergency Medicaid, Medicare, Housing and Urban Development rental as-

sistance, National School Lunch Program/School Breakfast Program, and Enrollment in, and financial assistance through, Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act exchanges.

Prompted by states and territories about the added cost of hosting Compact migrants, Congress authorized in 2004 and appropriated \$30 million annually for 20 years, to help defray costs associated with Compact migration. While the funding ends in 2023, Compact migration is still allowed and is expected to grow.

The CNMI, with Hawaii and Guam, reported an estimated total cost of \$3.2 billion, from 2004 to 2018 associated with Compact migration. Approximately \$509 million in federal grants, from 2004 to 2019 was received by the three, to help defray costs of providing services to Compact migrants. Of this, the CNMI reported \$116 million in total estimated Compact impact costs, and a grant funding of \$53.9 million.

"The CNMI's reported annual costs amounted to \$10 million in both fiscal years 2004 and...2018, but fluctuated over time, ranging from a low of about \$3 million in fiscal year 2011 to a high of \$12 million in fiscal year 2014," the report stated.

The three jurisdictions also reported Compact impact costs for education, health, public safety and social services. GAO released the fiscal year 2017 figures where \$338.4 million was collectively spent, \$191.2 million of which went to educational services.

Cost for the CNMI in 2017 was

\$775,832 for education, \$2,818,223 for health, \$3,487,420 for public safety, and \$194,061 for social services, totaling \$7,275,536.

Compact migrants, being eligible to work in the U.S., participate in the local economy in a variety of fields. In the CNMI, this is mostly grounds-keeping and maintenance and in restaurants and hotels.

Despite their contribution to the workforce, Compact migrants face a number of workforce challenges, including difficulties in obtaining commercial and/or REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses, and labor abuse and discrimination.

CNMI officials surveyed for the study, however, describes Compact migrants as a valuable resource in supplementing the CNMI's small labor pool.

"Seventy-nine officials also noted that, without Compact migrants, businesses would have to recruit more foreign labor and face more-severe hiring challenges than they do now. Officials and a private sector representative stated that several businesses and franchises were founded by, and employ, Compact migrants," the GAO report said.

In addition to participating in the workforce, Compact migrants are also involved in social institutions, which help create diversity and cultural exchange in their receiving communities in the U.S., which include the CNMI.

Access the full report at <https://www.gao.gov/assets/710/707555.pdf>.

RESOLUTION*From Page 1*

own lobbying, not only to call for an extension to the 30-day comment period, but also to oppose any increase in destructive military training in the Northern Islands.

Members of the group, Our Commonwealth 670, has worked with Rep. Sheila Babauta (D-Saipan), in drafting House Joint Resolution 21-008, a request for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to oppose any increase in destructive military training in the CNMI, including all proposed military use of the Northern Islands.

The joint resolution was unanimously passed by the members of the House Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs last Tuesday.

Introduced last March, the resolution maintains that the people of the Marianas, in the past two decades, have been presented with expanding and compounding plans for military training and testing, many of which involve "irreparable damage" to the land, sea, air, and biological systems of the Marianas. The resolution also notes that increased militarization poses a threat to the Marianas' terrestrial and marine species, its natural habitat, and its people.

"I am very pleased with the passage of H.J.R. 21-008, and even more grateful for the healthy dialogue that took place in the FFA Committee meeting," said Babauta. "It is important that we help educate one another, listen to the concerns of our community members, and clarify our intentions when voting on a resolution that involves the federal government."

Babauta also gave credit to the Our Commonwealth 670 team, led by chair Isa Arriola, adding, "We are committed to educating our people on the impact of militarization in the Marianas and hope to spark discussion at every table."

PSS*From Page 2*

safeguard students, teachers, parents, and staff, and limit the potential spread of COVID-19.

The CNMI got \$23.2 million in Education Stabilization Funds under the CARES Act, out of the \$154 million allocated by Congress for schools in the CNMI, American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

PSS Federal Programs officer Tim Thornburg said that they currently have over 9,000 iPads and 3,000 laptops for schools and, with 10,000 students, there are more devices than students, which he said is good.

"We're going to have the devices, we're going to have the connectivity. For low-income families, we will help them secure the connectivity that they'll need so that all children will have equal opportunities to take full advantage of learning," he added.

To further reassure families, PSS will also be hiring nurses, in time

In line with this, Arriola, in a separate interview, said that they are working to get more of the community involved in the commenting process. "We want them to be aware of the new impacts that are being assessed in this supplemental, particularly the irreparable damage that's going to be caused on marine mammal environments, and with the use of active sonar for example and the new training and testing," she said. "We're concerned that people might not understand the ramifications of these new studies and the kind of damage that's going to result from this training and testing that they're continuing on FDM and at the at-sea portions of the study area."

According to Arriola, they have been compiling comments from the community via their email ourcommonwealth670@gmail.com. Aside from with the comments on the report, she said they have also been getting questions on the language, with the report being technical, as well as requests for extensions to the comment period.

"A lot of people have shared that they feel like their comments don't matter but they do. They inform a really important public record for the community and help showcase people's stance about these documents, even though they're they are very technical and tough to get through," she said.

At the House session, Arriola also said that they completely support the governor's call for an extension on the commenting period to the military's proposal.

"We have been in communication with [[Special Assistant for Military Affairs] Glenna Reyes and it's our understanding that the governor is also is requesting an extension to this EIS commenting period. We completely support that extension because that's a huge concern right now," she said.

for the school reopening in September. With the CNMI now at Level Blue, PSS projects a hybrid learning module, where half of learning will be done online, and the other half on campus.

"It's our goal in September that we have a nurse at every school," Thornburg said. "Children sometimes get sick at school and we really need a nurse that can help them until their family can come and get them."

PSS will also be procuring thermal imaging cameras, and every teacher, staff, and student will have their temperatures taken.

Aside from the devices and the nurses, the Education Stabilization Fund was also used to backfill the hole in the local budget. According to Thornburg, almost all of their personnel now are temporarily federally-funded. Utilities were also paid through the fund.

Teachers will also be trained on how to better use technology to effectively connect with their students and sanitizing instruments will also be procured to sanitize schools daily.

Humanities Council awards COVID-19 relief grants

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council awarded a total of \$112,950 to eight non-profit organizations and three individuals under its COVID-19 Relief Grant program.

The grant is made possible by the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act through the National Endowment of the Humanities. Grant awards are intended to support cultural organizations and individual scholars, experts and practitioners who participate in projects and activities that advance the humanities. A total of \$242,700 in CARES Act funding was provided to NMHC.

"We are grateful to the National Endowment for the Humanities and [the] U.S. Congress for empowering our council with the means and authority to distribute CARES Act funds to organizations and individuals in our community who are impacted by this pan-

demic," said Leo Pangelinan, NMHC's executive director.

The following groups and individuals were awarded: Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, NMI Museum of History and Culture, Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, CNMI Women's Association, 500 Sails, Lady Diann Torres Foundation, Team Koka of Tinian, Marianas Ukulele Festival, Don Farrell, Valentina Rivera, and Catherine Perry.

The humanities cover work in history; philosophy; languages; linguistics; literature; archaeology; jurisprudence; history and philosophy of science; ethics; comparative religion; art criticism and those social sciences employing historical or philosophical approaches to their content as well as cultural anthropology, sociology, political theory, international relations, and other subjects concerned with questions of human value.

The deadlines for the next

round of COVID-19 Relief Grants are June 19 and July 31. Non-profit organizations

can receive up to \$15,000 and individuals can receive up to \$10,000.

Visit the NMHC website, nmhcouncil.org, to learn more about the COVID-19

Relief Grant Application requirements and to fill out an online application.

For more information, call the council at 235-4785 or email at info@nmhcouncil.org. (PR)

Bill to fund help Rota patients advances

More funding for Rota interisland medical referral patients and subsistence allowance for hemodialysis and terminally-ill patients took a step forward as legislators moved to pass House Bill 21-116 last Monday.

The bill is a move from Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) to transfer, for Rota patients, \$290,000 of the funding appropriated to Rota to pay any of their legislative delegation's outstanding obligation to the general fund, from the sixth-year casino license fee, as mandated under Public Law 21-10.

Under the law, the appropriation shall only be obligated upon the Finance secretary's certification to the Rota delegation, indicating a detail accounting of the obligation, if there is, of any amount owed or not owed by the legislators.

According to Manglona, the Rota delegation has been going back and forth with the Department of Finance, regarding what is owed, if any, by the First Senatorial District funds. "Since October, when this bill became law, we haven't received any certification or any letter from Finance stating

that these funds were used to pay any balance," he added.

The Rota delegation finds that during this "critical financial shortfall," it is crucial to provide for the Rota interisland medical



Manglona

referral patients' stipend and lodging costs, as well as the Rota hemodialysis and terminally-ill patients' medical subsistence allowance.

Without money coming in from funding sources that would normally cover medical expenses of Rota patients, the delegation is seeking to use the \$290,000 to support Rota's interisland medical referral patients, and hemodialysis and terminally-ill patients.

"Patients from the CNMI, when they seek health care outside the CNMI, they get some kind of stipend and...these expenses are taken care of. But with Rota, it's the delegation's responsibility to try to ensure that some of these expenses are covered," Manglona said. "We've assisted [the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.] with

these expenses by appropriating some of our local funding but, again, absent any poker fees or any e-gaming fees, we're trying to look for other revenue sources to help support these programs. This bill will take care of that."

H.B. 21-116 will re-appropriate the \$290,000 to provide for the interisland medical referral stipend and lodging costs and the medical subsistence allowance for the Rota patients.

A total of \$190,000 will be used to cover the payment of the Rota patients' medical referral stipend and lodging costs, and \$100,000 will cover the payment of the Rota medical subsistence allowance for the Rota hemodialysis and terminally-ill patients.

As a background, Public Law 21-10 also appropriated \$220,000 for about 140 Rota dialysis and terminally ill patients' monthly subsistence allowance from May to October 2019.

At the House session, Rep. Tina Sablan (D-Saipan)

stressed the need to get better information from the Finance secretary, citing that there "seems to be some confusion coming from the administration about what is owed or is not owed."

"We really need to get better information from the Secretary of Finance. I think that, going forward, I don't understand how the people [on] Rota and the Rota delegation were placed in such [a] situation to begin with. Perhaps that is something that we could further clarify, to make sure that this really doesn't happen again," she added. (Iva Maurin)

UOG virtual graduation today

The University of Guam will confer degrees to 360 graduates at its commencement ceremony today. The number marks the university's second largest graduating class in history, following May 2019 with 375 graduates. It also marks a record-high number of master's degrees conferred by the

university within an academic year with a total of 144 master's degrees in 2019-2020.

The ceremony will be held virtually due to safety precautions with the COVID-19 pandemic. It will be streamed at 7pm today, June 18, on the UOG Facebook page at www.facebook.com/UniversityofGuam. (PR)

I ♥ MASSAGE

Special Local Promotion

\$18⁰⁰ Body Massage 60 minutes

\$25⁰⁰ Body & Feet Massage 90 minutes

Business Hours:
10:00AM-8:00PM • Monday-Sunday

VISIT 10 TIMES - GET 1 FREE

For more information, please
Call 234-9229 and ask for Wang

Located in Beach Road, Susupe, 1st Floor,
Joeten Commercial Bldg. next to Zoom Chicken

PRINT + ONLINE + FB PAID PARTNERSHIP

ADVERTISE

with us!

CALL US 235.8747

35 TJSHS graduates close high school chapter



TJSHS Class of 2020 salutatorian Deamarie Aubrey Rempillo Patio receives her award with parents, Mariana and Diomedes, school principal Dionne Santos, and Board of Education member Phillip Mendiola-Long.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kicking off the first-ever virtual graduation in the school's history, Tinian Junior/Senior High School principal Dionne Santos reflected on the many challenges the Class of 2020 had to overcome to get to the part where they finally graduated.

"For the past 11 years with many of you, I have had the honor and privilege to see you through the tough times and the best times as students," said Santos.

That included surviving the devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018 and a global



Tinian Junior/Senior High School Class of 2020 valedictorian Anne Francesca Libut Sanchez.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COVID-19 pandemic that has taken away the graduates' last few remaining months of high school.

It was that resilience and grit that the people of Tinian honored on June 8 during the graduation ceremony for the Class of 2020, which started off with a motorcade for the graduates, with cars decorated with balloons and banners waving proudly. Following the lively procession was the presentation of awards and diplomas, which was held at the school itself.

Besides Santos, others who also shared inspirational remarks were Board of Education member Philip Mendiola-Long, Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada, and Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan.

A total of 35 students graduated, 12 of them cadets in the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps program, five of whom were in the Top 10, including this year's valedictorian, Anne Francesca Libut Sanchez, who is also the outgoing battalion commander.

This year's Class of 2020

salutatorian, Deamarie Aubrey Rempillo Patio, is another ROTC cadet; she is the outgoing Public Affairs Officer (S5) and former S5 NCOIC.

Julia Raine Biton, who achieved No. 4 in the Top 10, is a former S5 and the outgoing battalion command sergeant major.

No. 7 in the Top 10 is headquarters company commander Charlene Grace Linis Danganan. No. 9 in this year's Top 10 is Keyla Borja Flores, the outgoing battalion executive officer.

Also graduated are the hard-working cadets Joshua Masga, Angel Lagunay, Kyle Pabolario, Daynee Mavel Pascua, Jesse Aquiningoc, Phoebe Carreon, and Tyler Santos.

Following the addresses valedictory and salutatory speeches was the presentation of awards to Anne Francesca Libut Sanchez, Deamarie Aubrey Rempillo Patio, and Charlene Grace Linis Danganan. The ceremony ended with the traditional Turning of the Tassels. *(Samantha Sandbergen)*

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Globe Corporation dba Phoenix Garden A

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Globe Corporation dba Phoenix Garden A is proposing to operate a Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as "Bed & Breakfast Uses" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 128 D 36 in Garapan village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: July 02, 2020

Time: 5:00 pm

Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center Building Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, June 1, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@zoning.gov.mp. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Treasurer

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Globe Corporation dba Phoenix Garden C

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Globe Corporation dba Phoenix Garden C is proposing to operate a Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as "Bed & Breakfast Uses" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 128 D 43 in Garapan village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: July 02, 2020

Time: 5:00 pm

Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center Building Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, June 1, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@zoning.gov.mp. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Treasurer

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Marked 4 Life Tattoo

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Marked 4 Life Tattoo is proposing to operate its Personal Services within his residential home (Tattoo Parlor). This use is classified as "Personal Service" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 010 K 224 in Dandan village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: July 02, 2020

Time: 5:00 pm

Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center Building Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, June 1, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@zoning.gov.mp. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Treasurer

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Pacific International Property Management LLC

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Pacific International Property Management LLC is proposing to construct two structures for Residential Use (Multifamily or Apartment). This use is classified as "Residential Uses" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 006 B 11 in As Matuis village. This area is zoned as Tourist Resort.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: July 02, 2020

Time: 5:00 pm

Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center Building Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, June 1, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@zoning.gov.mp. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Treasurer

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Shalom Church

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Shalom Church is proposing to occupy an existing building structure to operate a Church. This use is classified as "Church or Place of Worship Uses" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. TR. 21859-3-1 in Fina Sisu village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: July 02, 2020

Time: 5:00 pm

Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center Building Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, June 1, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@zoning.gov.mp. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Treasurer

Submission information for PUA, FPUC applications

The CNMI Department of Labor is now accepting applications for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian starting yesterday, June 17, 2020, through Dec. 26, 2020. There are two ways individuals may submit applications for PUA/FPUC in the CNMI.

Online application submissions

Claimants may apply for PUA and FPUC online by logging onto www.hiremarianas.com and submitting an initial claim. After filing an initial claim, individuals may continue to use the online portal to submit weekly claim certifications.

Manual application submissions

Claimants may submit PUA/FPUC paper applications to various DOL locations on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian. Application packets are available for downloading and printing at www.marianaslabor.net. Application packets will also be available for pick-up at the following locations (from 8am

to 12pm, Monday-Friday):

SAIPAN: (*strictly drive-thru*)
CNMI Department of Labor
Division of Employment
Services

Building # 1334, Ascension Drive
Capital Hill, Saipan
MP 96950

**Various tent locations*

ROTA

Sinapalo Youth Center
Sinapalo 1, Rota, MP 96951

TINIAN:

Edu's Plaza, 1st Floor

San Jose Village, Tinian, MP 96952

or
Tinian Public Library
San Jose Village, Tinian, MP 96952

PUA/FPUC questions

Individuals are encouraged to email info@puamarianas.com or call any of the following numbers between 8am and 4pm, (Monday-Friday) for any PUA/FPUC-related inquiries.

SAIPAN:

■ 670-989-9089
■ 670-989-9090

■ 670-989-9080
■ 670-989-9081
■ 670-989-9083
■ 670-989-9084

■ 670-989-9000

Fraud hotline

Individuals are encouraged to call 670-989-9095 to report any perceived instances of waste, fraud or abuse pertaining to the PUA/FPUC programs. (*PR*)



ARMY'S BIRTHDAY

In celebration of the Army's 245th birthday, the Guam Army National Guard's oldest soldier, Col. Mike Cruz, third from left, and youngest soldier, Pvt. Jayton Penaflo, second from right, cut the birthday cake during a ceremony at the Guam National Guard Headquarters in Barrigada on June 12. The U.S. Army's honorable lineage dates back to June 15, 1775. 245 years later, we observe the Army's values and patriotism, its legacy of service and making a difference in communities, and the sacrifices it has made.

U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO/
JOANNA DELFIN

JKPL offers PUA, FPUC assistance by appointment

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library continues to serve the CNMI in innovative ways by providing assistance to individuals who may qualify for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation application submission.

The JKPL will assist patrons on registration and filing claims through the PUA portal and printing of manual submissions. PUA/FPUC applications are available at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library for distribution. Contact the JKPL to schedule an appointment. The library asks the public to contact the library via telephone to schedule an appointment at (670) 235- 7322 or 7323 (READ), from Tuesday to Thursday, from 9:30am to 3:30pm and Friday to Saturday from 9:30am to 11:30am.

Programs and activities are made possible by generous Educational Tax Credit donors, Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, community partners, and grants from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

For the latest news and events, visit the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's website at www.cnmilib.org and like and/or follow JKPL's Facebook page, @joetenkiyu-publiclibrary. To subscribe to its newsletter, contact

cnmistatelibrary@gmail.com. Follow the library on Instagram @joetenkiyupubliclibrary; Pinterest @ Joeten Kiyu; Snapchat @JoetenKiyu; and Youtube: joetenkiyu public library. The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's summer

hours of hours of operation effective Tuesday, June 9, 2020, are by appointment only: Tuesday to Thursday from 9:30am to 4:30pm. Friday and Saturday from 9:30am to 12pm. Closed Sunday, Monday, and holidays. (*PR*)



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW20-ITB-015

SUBMISSION DATE: April 22, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“Supply, Delivery & Installation of Aluminum Doors & Frames for the NAP Office, Saipan”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **July 01, 2020**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Project Site, **NAP Office As Lito**, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **July 8, 2020** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
DCCA, SECRETARY



Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting

Thursday, January 23, 2019 | 5:00 PM
Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center Building
Tel: 234-9661/2 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp



- A. Preliminary Matters**
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of 02/25/2020 Zoning Board Meeting minutes
 5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)
- B. Public Hearings:**
 1. **Conditional Use Application #2020-0730:** Shalom Church proposes to occupy a pre-existing one-story structure for its Church establishment. This use is classified as “Church or Place of Worship” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. TR. 21859-3-1 in Fina Sisu village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
 2. **Conditional Use Application #2019-5005:** Global Corporation Phoenix Garden A proposes to occupy a pre-existing one-story structure for its Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as “Bed & Breakfast” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 128 D 36 in Garapan village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
 3. **Conditional Use Application #2019-5007:** Global Corporation Phoenix Garden C proposes to occupy a pre-existing one-story structure for its Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as “Bed & Breakfast” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 128 D 43 in Garapan village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
 4. **Conditional Use Application #2020-1492:** Marked 4 Life Tattoo is proposing to occupy & operate its tattoo services. This use is classified as “Personal Services” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 010 K 224 in Dandan village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
 5. **Conditional Use Application #2020-0720:** Pacific International Property Management LLC is proposing to construct two structures for Residential Use (Multifamily or Apartment). This use is classified as “Residential Uses” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 006 B 11 in As Matusi village. This area is zoned as Tourist Resort.
- C. Communication**
 1. FY 2021 Budget
 2. FY 2019 DRAFT Annual Report
 3. Department Organizational and Functional Chart
- D. Old Business**
 1. ITB 19-ZB-134 “Vehicle purchase for Enforcement & Operations”
 2. Nuisance Abatement & Blighted Properties Maintenance Act of 2018 Regulations
- E. Executive (Closed) Session**
- F. New Business**
 1. Election of Officers
 2. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)
- G. Miscellaneous**
 1. Other Matters
 2. Announcements
 3. Next Meeting
- H. Adjournment**

Opinion

Hafa Adair!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXX, Issue No. 120

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Hong Kong demands democracy

China has decided to end any semblance of self-government for the city of Hong Kong. The mainland government could no longer tolerate either the protests against Chinese suppression of democracy on the island or a local legislature that sometimes bucked directives from the central authority in Beijing.

China shredded agreements, which were supposed to be in effect through 2047, to maintain a separate system of self-government in Hong Kong. The idea was known as “one country, two systems.” In May, China bypassed the democratically elected Legislative Council of Hong Kong to impose a national security law on the city.

China is only injuring its own interests and the people of Hong Kong by this decision. The U.S. and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo are right to bring pressure on China to reverse course and maintain democratic rights in the island city. Many experts say the law will weaken Hong Kong's reputation as a good place to do business.

In a final blow to any charade of maintaining freedom in Hong Kong, the pro-China Hong Kong government pushed through a law banning “insults” to the Chinese national anthem. In the typical language of totalitarian law, the term insult used to denote a violation is impossibly broad—it makes for an easy conviction though. The penalties for a violation are severe—up to three years in prison and the equivalent of a \$6,000 fine.

China already was cracking down on several years of protest by Hong Kong's citizenry over increasing breaches of human rights, but now that crackdown is being normalized through the law.

The tough line taken by the Chinese central government continues to destabilize Hong Kong. China would be better off culling taxes from a prosperous Hong Kong than making it more difficult for the city to recover from the damage done by the coronavirus, which came on top of a recent economic downturn.

Now the city and China face economic penalties by the United States, which is planning to remove the favored trade status the city enjoys.

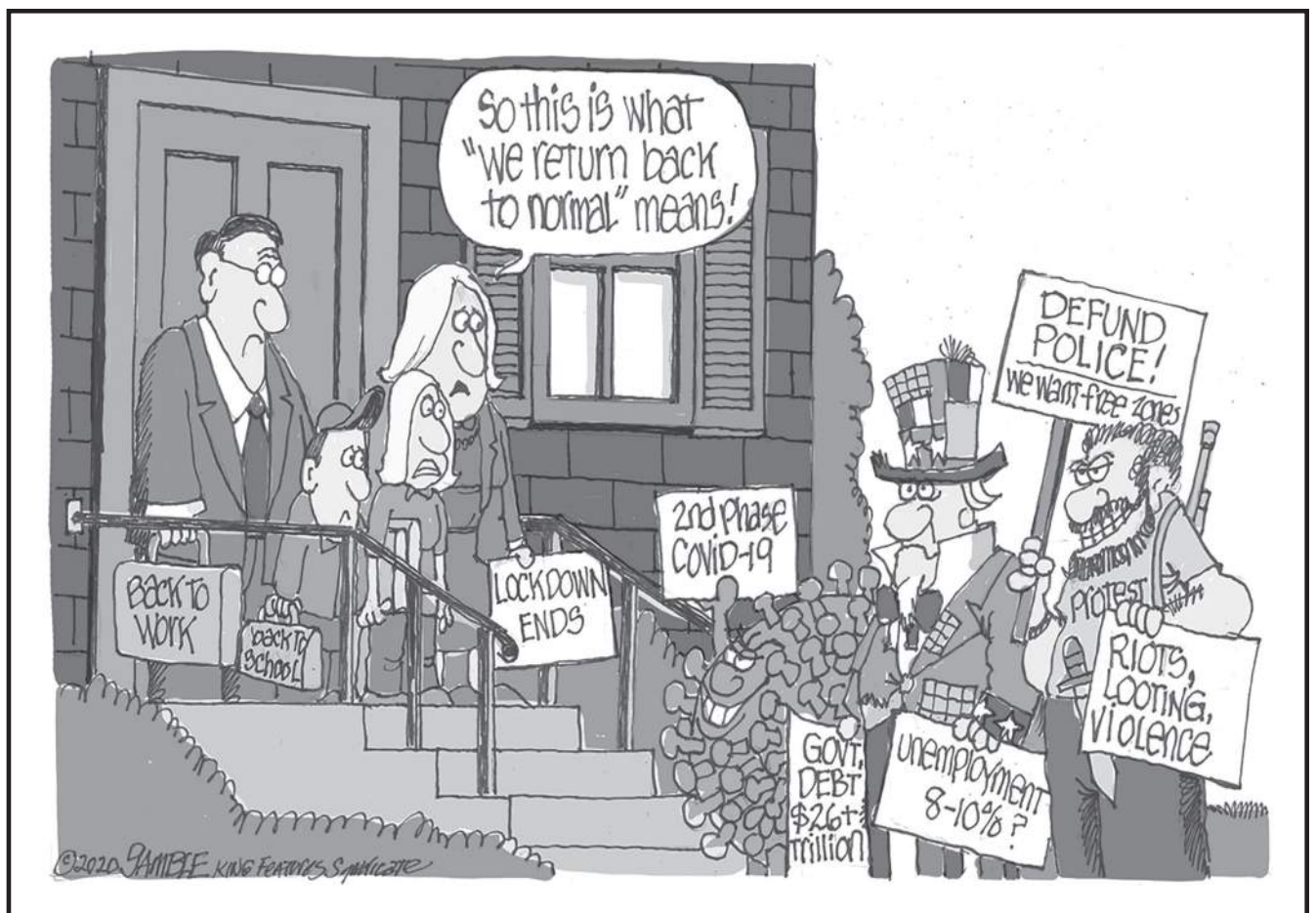
Hong Kong had long been part of the British Empire. Despite its colonial status, Britain loosened its grip and local control allowed virtual self-government and created a thriving economy. After long negotiations, Britain turned Hong Kong over to China in 1997 with some guarantees that China would allow Hong Kong to maintain its institutions.

The democratic institutions of Hong Kong—the right to assemble, the freedom of the press and free elections—were what the people of Hong Kong want to maintain. Acknowledging the mainland government is not the issue; the people of Hong Kong simply want to maintain their way of life.

The people of Hong Kong essentially want the Beijing government to leave them alone.

Letting the city forge its own path, while continuing to acknowledge the sovereignty of the mainland Chinese government, would go a long way toward quelling protest and improving the relationship between the city and the rest of China—and the world.

(c)2020 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



The Supreme Court surprises us with fairness in LGBTQ decision, but will it last?

What a relief. Monday's Supreme Court decision that protects Americans from being fired because of sexual orientation actually turned out to be fair. Even better, I agreed with it.

Advocates for gay and lesbian rights, among other liberal activists, warned that President Donald Trump's election would lead to conservative judges and rollbacks in such landmark victories as the high court's decision to legalize same-sex marriage in 2015 under President Barack Obama.

That fate appeared to be confirmed with the confirmation of scores of conservative judges and, on the high court, new Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh.

But celebration on the political and religious right turned to angry cries of betrayal after the 6-3 decision written by Gorsuch and joined by Chief Justice John Roberts and the court's four remaining liberals.

In the case of *Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia*, the court ruled that Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which bars employment discrimination “because of sex” also protects workers who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

With elegant simplicity and straightforward clarity, Gorsuch explained “an employer who fires an individual for being homosexual or transgender fires that person for traits or actions it would not have questioned in members of a different sex. Sex plays a necessary and undisguisable role in the decision, exactly what Title VII forbids.”

And if the employer had additional reasons for the firing? No matter, the decision says in a line suitable for immortality. “Intentionally burning down a neighbor's house is arson, even if the perpetrator's ultimate intention (or motivation) is only to improve the view.”

Gorsuch's crisp clarity sent some clear signals—yet one must cautiously note, no guarantees regarding future outcomes. He laid his argument on textualism, the popular conservative theory that judges should look to the plain text of the law.

That matters in a subject such as LGBTQ rights, since few people were talking about LGBTQ rights in 1964. Yet, at least since the Stonewall riots broke out during a police raid on a gay and transgender bar in New York and launched the gay and lesbian rights movement in 1969, it increasingly has become a matter of common sense that gender protections should include LGBTQ people.

Looking back, it is all the more ironic to recall that “sex” was included in the law, which was primarily aimed at racial discrimination, as a sort of last-minute poison pill. Staunch Virginia segregationist Rep. Howard Smith slipped it in, figuring that his fellow lawmakers would see the protection of women's rights as

By CLARENCE PAGE

Chicago Tribune

Clarence Page is a member of the Chicago Tribune Editorial Board. Readers may send him email at cpage@tribune.com.



way too extreme. Fortunately, the times were a-changing faster than he realized.

But now, we have the era of Donald Trump vowing under his “Make America Great Again” slogan to change the times back. Trump, who often seems to be more familiar with breaking the Ten Commandments than citing them, nevertheless appealed heavily to religious conservatives. Among other smart moves, he turned to the right-leaning Federalist Society for court recommendations. The phrase “But, Gorsuch ...” is routinely cited by evangelicals when asked why they give more than 80% approval to Trump in polls.

And he remembers them. Team Trump has issued a flurry of regulations to curtail protections for transgender employees of government contractors and the right of transgender students to use a bathroom or locker room corresponding with their gender identity. Last Friday the Trump administration took away requirements that doctors offer, and insurers cover, medically appropriate treatment for transgender patients.

Now comes the backlash against this Gorsuch decision, which already is being compared to the backlash against President George H.W. Bush from the right after the *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* decision in 1992, when Republican appointees Anthony Kennedy, David Souter and Sandra Day O'Connor joined with the court's liberals to uphold women's reproductive rights.

Some conservatives were calling for impeachment after Chief Roberts' deciding vote in 2012 that saved the Affordable Care Act, better known as Obamacare, along with health insurance coverage for millions of Americans.

But the high court also likes to save the best—or most controversial—cases for last. Still to come are cases about abortion, separation between church and state, and the president's right to keep his financial records away from investigators.

Perhaps then we will know whether the Roberts court can maintain its reputation for courageous integrity across partisan lines—or whether, depending on whose side you're on, we're being set up for big disappointment.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

How to determine if a business is COVID-19 safe? Create a restaurant-style grading system

By ARCHON FUNG, DAVID WEIL, and MARY GRAHAM
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Uncertainty and fear of a virulent pathogen are powerful deterrents to social and economic engagement, in addition to the record levels of post-Great Recession unemployment. Nearly 70% of respondents in a national poll published in early May said they were uncomfortable with the idea of shopping in clothing stores and almost 80% expressed misgivings about eating in restaurants, regardless of government reopening plans.

To counter this fear and uncertainty, government standards and a ratings system should be put in place.

Governments would need to provide and enforce specific workplace safety and health standards for businesses in different sectors—such as retail establishments, restaurants and personal-service providers—that would protect workers and customers. Those would be followed by a simple ratings system that communicates to workers and customers which businesses are doing their utmost to protect public health and which ones are treating the novel coronavirus lackadaisically.

Public safety begins with worker safety. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has failed to issue emergency COVID-19 standards. Instead of enforceable and robust standards, OSHA has offered only loose guidance that it acknowledges “creates no new legal obligations.” As of mid-May, OSHA had received more than 13,600 COVID-19-related complaints but had issued no citations or penalties. The result of that laxity has been rapid COVID-19 spread and death in food processing plants, retail outlets and nursing home facilities in the United States.

Massachusetts General Hospital and some other healthcare facilities that have been at the forefront of COVID-19 treatment have developed work processes to limit cross-contamination.

Public health expert recommendations to minimize worker and consumer exposure include screening, contact tracing, physical distancing at work, training to control infection, and ongoing surveillance to detect illness early. But unions, other worker organizations and consumer groups should not have to rely on

the goodwill of businesses.

Instead, these groups should participate in the rapid development and implementation of standards to assure that the concerns of working people and the public are adequately addressed. Since the federal OSHA has so far proved unwilling to ensure the adoption of such process standards, state and city public health authorities should do so.

State and local governments could then grade businesses such as restaurants, grocery stores, hair salons, movie theaters and other retail operations. The grades would be based on their adoption of emergency standards and additional measures they’ve taken to fight COVID-19.

Are they following steps outlined for their industry regarding masks, protective equipment, physical distancing, deep cleaning, adequate ventilation, testing, paid sick leave, reporting employee infections, and whistleblower protection for workers who point out deficiencies?

Over five years, we studied rating and grading systems that rank safety and quality in many industries, including restaurants, health care, banking, education and manufacturing. We found that information was most effective when it is provided where people make choices, and in a way that everyone can understand, regardless of education or language skills.

Long-standing public health disclosure systems in Los Angeles County, New York City and many state and local governments have shown the way. Restaurants are required to post in their windows A, B or C grades for hygiene and food safety that are based on unannounced health department inspections. Inspectors lower grades if they find evidence—such as rodent droppings or unwashed greens—that restaurants aren’t doing enough to prevent food poisoning. These report cards have pressed businesses to become cleaner.

Establishing a similar system of COVID-19 safety grades would encourage consumers to shop and eat where workers and the people they serve are protected, thereby helping to control the spread of the disease. It would enable customers and workers to protect themselves by choosing “A” businesses and workplaces and avoiding those with C grades—just like they do with

the restaurant ratings.

The market pressure of consumers looking for “A” businesses would probably motivate employers to do what it takes to earn one. COVID-19 workplace safety standards will vary across different industries and evolve as scientific understanding improves. Child-care centers would obviously need to take different steps than grocery stores or restaurants.

Creating this system would require cash-strapped governments to quickly develop grading standards and expand inspection capacity. But the cost of fearful and uncertain consumers and workers who can’t tell which businesses are safe would be much greater. To start, grades could be introduced in stages, with state and local governments that already require standards taking the lead.

Failing grades would go to places that don’t meet emergency COVID-19 standards. Businesses and workplaces that exceed minimum standards and push the envelope on worker safety and public health would earn good A and B grades.

The grading system could inspire a “race to the top” as businesses seek to adopt the very best practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Once restaurant grading was in place, researchers found that food poisoning declined by 13% in just two years. But over time, grade inflation and lax inspections weakened the system in some jurisdictions. Making businesses transparent about their COVID-19 performance will require robust ongoing enforcement with consequences for noncompliance.

By deciding where they eat, shop and work in the coming months, the American people will help restore the country’s economic vitality. Enforced workplace health and safety standards and a COVID-19 grading system would help them reenter society more confidently.

Archon Fung, David Weil and Mary Graham co-direct the Transparency Policy Project at the Harvard Kennedy School and are the authors of Full Disclosure. Fung directs the democracy programs at the Ash Center of the Kennedy School and Weil is dean of the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University.

Is this the new America?

It has been quite an adventure, the last six years or so in America.

Early on, something awful was the condition of the down-and-out in the white working class, suffering deaths of despair, adding up eventually to 150,000 a year. The cause seemed to be a sense of lesser lives brought to an end by drugs, alcohol and suicides. But understand that some upper class intelligentsia and a load of academics had been having their afflictions as well, such as abandoning a belief in truth, thinking all cultures are equal, telling us that Western civilization with its capitalism is nothing special and actually evil, for starters.

You could see the tragedies coming, but who expected Donald Trump would be president, the former host of a TV reality show, an ignorant, low-life narcissist who nevertheless connected with the working class who got it that not a few elitists saw them as pretty much morally worthless? Other supporters said Trump was unfit but at least he was not his Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton, an ideologically disabled candidate embracing dishonesty for the sake of cash and political gain.

Trump won the election but not the hearts of Democrats and bureaucrats who were quickly devising illegitimate means of disposing of him. What we got was the Russian collusion fiesta with Robert Mueller acting as host and all the attendees absolutely thrilled until even Mueller had to say, oops, no evidence. It added up to an unspeakable scandal of disbanding rule of law and disrupting governance to be followed up by

like-minded hijinks making you quiver about the durability of our precious system.

Next came the Democratic presidential primaries in which touches of centrism were flooded by socialistically inspired ideas of spending money that was nowhere to be found to solve problems by making them worse. Joe Biden seemed tamer than most and won, although his gaffes grew to the point of wondering about unmentionables.

As president, Trump has been nothing short of horrific on some fronts along with a surprising number of good moves. But here came the coronavirus, and yes, he at least gave us Dr. Anthony Fauci as a superb guide. The lockdown, a use of government power unlike anything ever seen in America, has likely saved lives, but 40 million people are unemployed, vast numbers of businesses are never going to recover and a quick if very careful reopening of America is crucial. We could otherwise be looking at years of widespread destitution and maybe more deaths than the virus could render.

Keeping an eye on all of this have been news outlets, absolutely crucial to our democracy, and the weirdness has been a resurrection of the partisan press with cable TV as the standout. But don’t forget the symbolic New York Times, in some ways still outstanding even though it has converted its front page to yet another opinion page. On its designated opinion pages, where diversity of views should be appreciated, we recently saw the resignation of an opinion editor who ran an op-ed piece that some reporters disliked.

By JAY AMBROSE

Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.








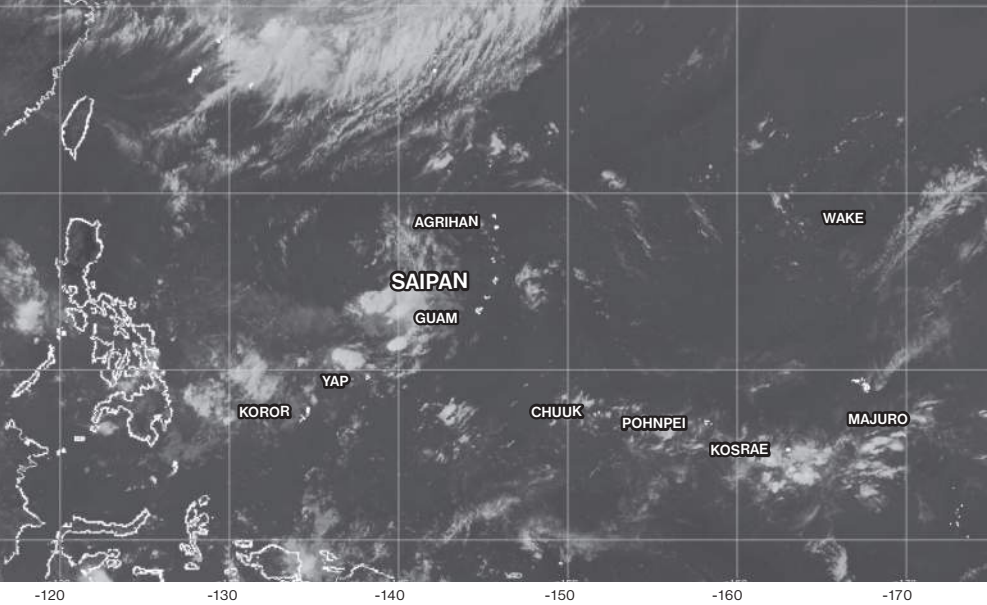
The paper also won a Pulitzer Prize for a project that contended slavery built America and is still informing who we are as a people even though top-notch historians say the writing is full of factual and conceptual errors. That apparently does not bother some public schools that plan to use the material even as they struggle to teach reading and math.

Lately we have had the horror of white evil dressed up as a policeman maliciously killing a black man. Part of the response was multi-racial peaceful protests along with an awakened nationwide concern about racism only to be met by resistance from within: unresolved shooting deaths of black people during the riots, black businesses destroyed and public officials reluctant to stand in the way of much of anything. Police reforms are needed, but not to the extent that public safety disappears.

The issue is whether the best of America persists. It’s up to us.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
90°	78°	90°	79°	90°	79°	89°	79°	89°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 6:42 AM, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A fairly dry trade-wind pattern persists across the area with only isolated showers moving through the Marianas. Thicker high-level cirrus continue to move over the region from deeper convection to the southwest and west.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/


STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

able, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors



CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

- ### Continue good hand hygiene
- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
 - Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

- ### Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic
- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not avail-

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	86° / 80°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorm	86° / 80°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	86° / 78°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	86° / 78°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Sunday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Monday	5:48 AM	6:49 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	3:15 AM	4:09 PM	-
Friday	3:55 AM	5:00 PM	-
Saturday	4:40 AM	5:54 PM	-
Sunday	5:28 AM	6:50 PM	-
Monday	6:21 AM	7:46 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Showers	59° / 52°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	91° / 72°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	90° / 82°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86° / 74°	
London	Cloudy	72° / 57°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	70° / 59°	
Manila	Thunderstorm	88° / 79°	
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	57° / 43°	
Miami	Showers	85° / 76°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	93° / 73°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	82° / 72°	
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	73° / 59°	
Busan	Rain	75° / 66°	
Rome	Thunderstorm	88° / 66°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	93° / 73°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	63° / 54°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	86° / 66°	
Tokyo	Rain	75° / 66°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	97° / 77°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:50 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.96	
12:08 PM	LOW TIDE	0.27	
7:04 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.79	
-	-	-	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	1, 4, 6	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	1, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri	3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri	3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

SUBSCRIPTION

Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING

For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Business

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Garapan Restaurant Café and Grill was established eight years ago and through the years, they have grown to understand what their customers need especially during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“During this time of hardship, we wanted to be able to provide a nice, warm, home-cooked meal that individuals can take home and enjoy. We believe that a warm meal

helps heal one’s soul,” said general manager and director Gracia Yoo.

“We try to do our best but most importantly we think of our customers as family. Interactions between our staff and our customers have always been very family-like. Loyal customers love our wide-ranging menu from Japanese, Korean (including Korean BBQ), to American cuisine,” Yoo added.

The restaurant temporarily closed after the first case of COVID-19 on Saipan was de-



Garapan Restuarant Cafe and Grill has a wide array of sushi platters that will satisfy one’s cravings.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Garapan Restaurant Cafe and Grill serves authentic Korean dishes served hot and fresh every day.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Garapan Restaurant Cafe and Grill was established in 2012 and started by Gracia Yoo’s mother, Marichella Yoo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Garapan Restaurant Café and Grill serves dishes for the soul

clared in April. “We wanted to be as cautious as possible for our staff and customers’ safety but we were back in business again after a month... We are currently serving take-out only from 11am to 2pm and we are serving our full menu available including our specials and sushi platters. Last Monday, we also started serving dinner from 5pm to 7pm but

for take-out only,” Yoo said.

“We currently have our ‘daily bento’ and specials throughout the month of June. Our ‘daily bento’ is different every day but the classic bentos are a staple and available every day as well. Because of two important events this month, we have specials for the graduates of 2020 and Father’s Day,” Yoo added.

From June 13 to 21, Garapan Restaurant Cafe and Grill graduation platter includes one baked salmon roll, one California roll, three ikura gunkan, three nigiri, two potato croquette, tsukemono, miso soup (family zize) for only \$30; and starting June 15, Father’s Day special consists of Korean BBQ set and sushi platters.

Garapan Restaurant Café and Grill is located along Coral Street in Garapan. They are open from Monday to Sunday for lunch, 11am-2pm, and dinner, 5pm to 7pm, for take-out only.

For more information, call (670) 233-7000 or look them up on Instagram: garapanrestaurant670 and Facebook: Garapan Restaurant Cafe & Grill.

Facebook aims to help voters, but won’t block Trump misinfo

Facebook is launching a widespread effort to boost U.S. voter turnout and provide authoritative information about voting—just as it doubles down on its policy allowing politicians like President Donald Trump to post false information on the same subject.

The social media giant is launching a “Voting Information Center” on Facebook and Instagram that will include details on registering to vote, polling places and voting by mail. It will draw the information from state election officials and local election authorities.

The information hub, which will be prominently displayed on people’s Facebook news feeds beginning on Wednesday—and on Instagram later in the summer—is similar to the coronavirus information center

the company launched earlier this year in an attempt to elevate facts and authoritative sources of information on COVID-19.

Facebook and its CEO, Mark Zuckerberg, continue to face criticism for not removing or labeling posts by Trump that that spread misinformation about voting by mail and, many said, encouraged violence against protesters.

“I know many people are upset that we’ve left the President’s posts up, but our position is that we should enable as much expression as possible unless it will cause imminent risk of specific harms or dangers spelled out in clear policies,” Zuckerberg wrote earlier this month.

In a USA Today opinion piece Tuesday, Zuckerberg reaffirmed that position.

US expects insurers to cover COVID vaccine without copays

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. officials said Tuesday they expect health insurance companies will cover vaccines for COVID-19 without charging copays, once those vaccines are developed and become available.

At a briefing for reporters, a senior Trump administration official said the government has been talking with insurers about offering vaccines at no cost to patients. The industry earlier made a similar commitment to cover testing for the coronavirus without charging copays.

The White House has launched an initiative to quickly manufacture millions of doses of COVID vaccines, once the Food and Drug Administration approves one or more formulations.

Candidate vaccines are in early trials, and the goal—

considered ambitious—is to have 300 million doses by early next year. At the White House signing of an executive order on policing, President Donald Trump predicted it could even be met before the end of this year. Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health has said a vaccine by year’s end is conceivable only if everything goes right in final testing this summer.

Earlier Tuesday, senior administration officials provided an overview of the effort to rapidly manufacture, distribute and deliver eventual vaccines. The officials spoke on condition that they not be publicly identified.

The White House has dubbed the initiative “Operation Warp Speed,” a joint project of the Department of

Health and Human Services and the Pentagon, under the overall direction of HHS. The Defense Department has extensive medical capabilities to keep U.S. service members worldwide safe from disease.

As with other vaccines, U.S. insurers will have a strong financial interest in covering one for COVID-19. Vaccines are seen as a win-win, helping the insurers’ customers stay healthy by preventing disease, which in turn can save the companies money.

Administration officials told reporters Tuesday that the COVID-19 vaccine, once available, will be distributed according to priorities, with the most vulnerable people ahead in line. The coronavirus has taken a disproportionate toll on older people and those with

other underlying conditions such as high blood pressure and diabetes. Not all Americans will have to be vaccinated, because it’s expected that millions will be protected by their own antibodies.

Health insurers cover vaccines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. They’re considered a preventive service, and the Affordable Care Act requires insurers cover them at no charge to patients. A range of screening tests, immunizations and birth control for women are already covered under the Obama-era Affordable Care Act. However, the Trump administration is pressing the courts to overturn “Obamacare” as unconstitutional.

STOCK
PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
26,289.98	3,124.74	9,895.87
+526.82	+58.15	+169.84
2.04%	1.90%	1.75%

EXCHANGE RATES

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7502	Russian Ruble	68.2832
Australian Dollar	1.4547	Singapore Dollar	1.3936
British Pound	0.7965	Japanese Yen	107.1910
Canadian Dollar	1.3542	Malaysian Ringgit	4.2316
Chinese Yuan	6.9809	New Zealand Dollar	1.5508
Euro	0.8871	Philippine Peso	49.0938
		South Korean Won	1189.41
		Swiss Franc	0.9496
		Taiwan Dollar	29.1035
		Thailand Baht	31.1370

Nation

Lafayette Square could decide Trump's legacy—and election

NEW YORK (AP)—Charlottesville. Helsinki. The children in cages at the Mexican border.

And now Lafayette Square.

Only a few legacy-defining moments have clung to President Donald Trump, who often appears to emerge relatively unscathed from a seemingly endless stream of crises and controversies. But the forceful clearing of demonstrators from the park across from the White House has resonated like few others, prompting top military leaders and usually lockstep Republicans to distance themselves from the president.

It is one of those rare images that seems unlikely to be overwritten by tomorrow's headlines, instead claiming a prominent place in Trump's entry in the history books. It also could help shape an election less than five months away. Even the president and members of his inner circle have privately expressed worry that its impact could be lasting.

"It's an indelible moment when the president of the United States ordered the use of force against peaceful protesters using their First Amendment rights in order to walk across Lafayette Square" and hoist a Bible, said Steve Schmidt, senior adviser to John McCain's 2008 presidential campaign. "In 10 minutes, he totally disgraced his office and committed sacrilege."

Protests, some violent, had flooded America's streets in the aftermath of the death of



People visit Lafayette Park where protest signs are seen along the fencing that surrounds a statue of President Andrew Jackson, Tuesday, June 16, 2020, near the White House in Washington, where protests have occurred over the death of George Floyd, a black man who was in police custody in Minneapolis. AP

George Floyd, a black man who died after being pinned under the knee of a white Minnesota police officer. Trump had briefly been forced to take shelter in the emergency White House bunker and flames had risen from St. John's Church across from the executive mansion. Lafayette Square was ordered to be cleared.

What happened was broadcast live to the nation: federal law enforcement officers using

batons, shields and chemical agents to forcibly push back peaceful protesters. Trump walked to the church and awkwardly held up a Bible, accompanied by top officials. The White House quickly produced a slick ad celebrating the triumph.

The ad does not run anymore. Aides have pointed fingers at each other as to who suggested what while some of Washington's most prominent figures,

perhaps with an eye toward the judgment of history, have tried to keep their distance.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper said he was not aware of what Trump had planned before he joined him. Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, issued a remarkable public apology for participating. A number of Republicans, including Sens. James Lankford of Oklahoma and Ben Sasse of Nebraska,

denounced the use of force and the display of religion.

The president has seethed about what transpired, believing he was not properly prepared by aides for the blowback and venting that media coverage was unfair, according to three White House and campaign officials not authorized to publicly discuss private conversations. He was angered by Milley and Esper's rebukes but, for now, does not

want them dismissed, according to the officials.

The Trump campaign, looking at internal polling, is worried about a drop in support for the president, which comes amid questions about his handling of the COVID-19 pandemic that has killed nearly 120,000 Americans and put more than 40 million out of work. And some in Trump's inner circle have privately likened it to other dark days in his presidency.

In August 2017, a clash erupted between white supremacists and anti-racist protesters in Charlottesville, Virginia, leaving one demonstrator dead. In the days that followed, Trump suggested there were "very fine people on both sides" of the violence, drawing swift rebukes from members of his own administration and party.

The next July, the president stood next to Russia's Vladimir Putin at a summit in Helsinki and declined to say he believed his own nation's intelligence services' conclusion that Moscow had interfered in the 2016 election. Before Air Force One had even touched back down in Washington, Trump was faced with the biggest intra-party revolt of his term.

That same summer, images of his administration's enforcement of a policy to separate immigrant children from their parents stunned a nation and were later cited by many Democratic strategists for being a defining issue in that year's midterm elections.

Trump signs order on police reform, doesn't mention racism

WASHINGTON (AP)—Following weeks of national protests since the death of George Floyd, President Donald Trump signed an executive order Tuesday that he said would encourage better police practices. But he made no mention of the roiling national debate over racism spawned by police killings of black men and women.

Trump met privately with the families of several black Americans killed in interactions with police before his Rose Garden signing ceremony and said he grieved for the lives lost and families devastated. But then he quickly shifted his tone and devoted most of his public remarks to a need to respect and support "the brave men and women in blue who police our streets and keep us safe."

He characterized the officers who have used excessive force as a "tiny" number of outliers among "trustworthy" police ranks.

"Reducing crime and rais-

ing standards are not opposite goals," he said before signing the order, flanked by police officials.

Trump and Republicans in Congress have been rushing to respond to the mass demonstrations against police brutality and racial prejudice that have raged for weeks across the country in response to the deaths of Floyd and other black Americans. It's a sudden shift that underscores how quickly the protests have changed the political conversation and pressured Washington to act.

But Trump, who has faced criticism for failing to acknowledge systemic racial bias and has advocated for rougher police treatment of suspects in the past, has continued to hold his "law and order" line. At the signing event, he railed against those who committed violence during the largely peaceful protests while hailing the vast majority of officers as selfless public servants.

Trump's executive order

would establish a database that tracks police officers with excessive use-of-force complaints in their records. Many officers who wind up involved in fatal incidents have long complaint histories, including Derek Chauvin, the white Minneapolis police officer who has been charged with murder in the death of Floyd. Those records are often not made public, making it difficult to know if an officer has such a history.

The order would also give police departments a financial incentive to adopt best practices and encourage co-responder programs, in which social workers join police when they respond to nonviolent calls involving mental health, addiction and homeless issues.

Trump said that, as part of the order, the use of chokeholds, which have become a symbol of police brutality, would be banned "except if an officer's life is at risk." Actually, the order instructs the Justice Department to push

local police departments to be certified by a "reputable independent credentialing body" with use-of-force policies that prohibit the use of chokeholds, except when the use of deadly force is allowed by law. Chokeholds are already largely banned in police departments nationwide.

While Trump hailed his efforts as "historic," Democrats and other critics said he didn't go nearly far enough.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said, "One modest inadequate executive order will not make up for his decades of inflammatory rhetoric and his recent policies designed to roll back the progress that we've made in previous years."

Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said the order "falls sadly and seriously short of what is required to combat the epidemic of racial injustice and police brutality that is murdering hundreds of Black Americans."

High court decision spotlights GOP divide over LGBT rights

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democrats flooded Twitter and email inboxes this week with praise for the watershed Supreme Court decision shielding gay, lesbian and transgender people from job discrimination. Republicans—not so much.

The court's 6-3 ruling came just two days after an event that played out in the opposite direction. Freshman GOP Rep. Denver Riggleman, who'd officiated at a same-sex wedding, lost his party's nomination in a conservative Virginia district.

The two developments underscored an election-year challenge facing the GOP: how to reconcile broad national support for LGBT protections, even among many Republicans, with fervent opposition from some of the party's die-hard conservative voters.

On Election Day, that question will be easily overshadowed by the moribund economy, the coronavirus pandemic, the interaction between race and

violent police tactics and by Trump himself. Still, the week's events point to a culture-war schism in the GOP that Democrats are happy to exploit, even as Republicans struggle to prevent moderate suburban voters from deserting them.

"This is something suburban voters support," said GOP pollster Glen Bolger. "And that is a group that Republicans are having challenges with."

Polling illustrates the GOP's dilemma.

In a December survey by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, 62% of Americans overall said they backed banning discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender people in workplaces, housing and schools.

That included around 3 in 4 Democrats and nearly half of Republicans. That's a turnaround from more negative feelings people had two decades ago.

World

Australia accuses China and Russia of virus disinformation

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—China and Russia were using the heightened anxiety around the coronavirus pandemic to undermine Western democracies by spreading disinformation online, Australia's foreign minister said.

The disinformation contributed to a "climate of fear and division" when the world needed cooperation and understanding, Foreign Minister Marise Payne said in a speech

at the Australian National University, a text of which was released by her office late Tuesday.

"Concerningly, we have seen disinformation pushed and promoted around the coronavirus pandemic and around some of the social pressures that have been exacerbated by the pandemic," Payne said.

"It is troubling that some countries are using the pandemic to undermine liberal

democracy to promote their own more authoritarian models," she added.

Payne referred to a European Union commission report last week that said "foreign actors and certain third countries, in particular Russia and China" are flooding Europe with "targeted influence operations and disinformation campaigns." It cited dangerous misinformation like claims that drinking bleach

can cure the disease and that washing hands does not help prevent its spread.

Payne last week rejected as disinformation China's warning to its citizens against visiting Australia because of pandemic-related racism.

China has also banned beef exports from Australia's largest abattoirs and ended the trade in Australian barley with prohibitive tariffs in what is widely regarded as punishment for Australia's advocacy for an independent inquiry into the origins and responses to the pandemic.

Some suspect that China's decision two weeks ago to

sentence Australian Karm Giles to death seven years after his arrest for drug trafficking is also linked to the bilateral rift.

Australia claimed vindication when the World Health Organization last month bowed to calls from most of its member states to launch an independent probe into how it managed the international response to the virus. The evaluation would stop short of looking into contentious issues such as the origins of the virus that was identified after an outbreak in China late last year.

Payne acknowledged critics who argued that Australia

should have gathered powerful allies before it antagonized China with demands for transparency.

"There were those who said that by speaking out, by seeking a review, we made ourselves a target and brought upon ourselves an unnecessary cost for a cause that would have been championed anyway by others whose size and stature made them more suitable standard-bearers," she said.

"There are times to pursue quiet diplomacy behind the scenes. But there are also times to voice our concerns and persuade others of the need for a course of action," she added.

India: 20 troops killed in Himalayas clash with Chinese army

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—A clash high in the Himalayas between the world's two most populated countries claimed the lives of 20 Indian soldiers in a border region that the two nuclear armed neighbors have disputed for decades, Indian officials said Tuesday.

The clash in the Ladakh region Monday—during which Indian officials said neither side fired any shots—was the first deadly confrontation between India and China since 1975. Experts said it would be difficult for the two nations to ease heightened tensions.

The Indian and Chinese troops fought each other with fists and rocks, Indian officials said on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to disclose the information.

The Indian Army initially said in a statement that three Indian soldiers had died, but later updated the number to 20 and said 17 "were critically injured in the line of duty at the standoff location and exposed to sub-zero temperatures in the high altitude terrain." The statement did not disclose the nature of the soldiers' injuries.

China accused Indian forces of carrying out "provocative attacks" on its troops without offering more details and did not disclose if any of its sol-

diers died.

After the clash, the two sides "disengaged" from the area where the the fighting happened, the Indian Army statement said.

The United Nations urged both sides "to exercise maximum restraint."

"We are concerned about reports of violence and deaths at the Line of Actual Control between India and China," U.N. associate spokesperson Eri Kaneko said. "We take positive note of reports that the two countries have engaged to de-escalate the situation."

Michael Kugelman, a South Asia specialist at the Wilson Center, said that the two countries were unlikely to go to war because they cannot "afford a conflict."

"But let's be clear: It beggars belief to think that they can magically deescalate after a deadly exchange with such a higher number of fatalities," he said. "This crisis isn't ending anytime soon."

China claims about 90,000 square kilometers (35,000 square miles) of territory in India's northeast, while India says China occupies 38,000 square kilometers (15,000 square miles) of its territory in the Aksai Chin Plateau in the Himalayas, a contiguous part

of the Ladakh region.

India unilaterally declared Ladakh a federal territory while separating it from disputed Kashmir in August 2019. China was among the handful of countries to strongly condemn the move, raising it at international forums including the U.N. Security Council.

Thousands of soldiers on both sides have faced off over a month along a remote stretch of the 3,380-kilometer (2,100-mile) Line of Actual Control, the border established following a war between India and China in 1962 that resulted in an uneasy truce.

Vivek Katju, a retired Indian diplomat, said the deadly violence represented a dramatic departure from the four-decades-old status quo of troops from the two countries staring each other down without any fatalities.

"The political class and the security class as a whole will have to do very serious thinking about the road ahead," he said.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian gave no details of any casualties on the Chinese side, but said that China had strongly protested the incident and remained committed to maintaining "peace and tranquility" along the disputed and heavily militarized border.

UK's Johnson: Israeli annexation breaches international law

LONDON (AP)—British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said Tuesday that Israeli plans to annex parts of the West Bank would "amount to a breach of international law."

Asked in the House of Commons about possible sanctions on Israel over the West Bank settlements, Johnson said: "I believe that what is proposed by Israel would amount to a breach of international law. We have strongly objected. We believe profoundly in a two-state solution and we will continue to make that case."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to annex Jewish settlements and the Jordan Valley, a move

that could scuttle any hopes of a viable Palestinian state.

Israel captured the West Bank in the 1967 Mideast war and has built dozens of settlements that are home to over 400,000 Israelis in the decades since. The Palestinians seek the territory as the heartland of a future independent state. Most of the international community considers Israel's West Bank settlements illegal under international law.

President Donald Trump's Middle East plan that was rolled out earlier this year, which overwhelmingly favors Israel and was rejected by the Palestinians, has given Israel a go-ahead for annexing Jewish

settlements.

Most of the international community opposes such a move.

Also on Tuesday, Jordan's king told U.S. lawmakers that the Israeli annexation plans are "unacceptable" and would undermine regional stability.

King Abdullah II spoke with U.S. senators and emphasized the kingdom's commitment to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

"Any unilateral Israeli measure to annex lands in the West Bank is unacceptable and undermines the prospects of achieving peace and stability in the region," the royal court said in a statement.

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

† Jovita Sadiaza Raymundo

Lovingly known as "Beth"
Born to Life on May 31, 1949
Called to Eternal Life on June 12, 2020

In her new Life, She now joins her:

Parents: †Ramon Raymundo
 †Cleotilde Raymundo

Siblings: †Luzviminda R. Dacuyan
 †Monchito Raymundo

Her spirit and memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Children: Petronilo Cruz, Jr. & Michelle Cruz

Siblings: Jose Raymundo
 Eladio Raymundo
 Felmore Raymundo
 Emily Raymundo
 Imelda R. Abalos

Half Siblings: Maria R. Muleta
 Estrella R. Villanueva
 Elnora Macatangay
 Antonio Raymundo
 Socrates Raymundo
 Leziel Sta. Monica
 Fe Romlon
 Ilisa Mano
 Rosendo Raymundo



Daily mass of intentions for the reposed soul is being offered at Kristo Rai Church at 6AM. On Friday, June 19, 2020, her remains will be escorted at 8:00AM to Kristo Rai Church and will be followed by visitation and last respects. Mass will be celebrated at 10:00AM.



Please join us in prayers
Thank you – Maraming Salamat Po – Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Children & Families of the late Jovita "Beth" S. Raymundo

Environment

As industrial polluters try to erase their greenhouse gas emissions, they plan to spend billions of dollars in the coming years on preserving and restoring forests to cancel out pollution they can't directly eliminate with electric vehicles, energy efficiency improvements and wind and solar power projects.

Protecting, enhancing and restoring forests brings undeniable benefits. A growing tree breathes in carbon dioxide, reducing the concentration of heat-trapping gas in the atmosphere, while providing a host of local environmental goods. Forests represents the largest category in a portfolio of natural climate solutions that scientists estimate could account for more than a third of global emissions reductions needed by 2030 to preserve a livable climate.

Airlines, oil and gas giants, and tech companies including Microsoft and Amazon are investing more in the complex systems that fund carbon projects, quantify the resulting climate benefits, and help the companies claim them as their own. These systems have long been subjects of skepticism, with lingering questions about their impact on the global climate calculus.

There's "a long and fraught history" of offset markets providing environmental cover to polluters, said Jennifer Crider, senior director of public affairs at Microsoft. "Someone will buy their way to carbon neutrality and then turn around and sell the offset credits," she said. "Does that help the atmosphere? No. Does that help your talking points? Yes."

Environmental justice advocates say emissions offsets can let companies continue burning fossil fuels and polluting in vulnerable communities, even as they burnish their image through the preservation or planting of trees often far removed from their operations.

Crider and others said offset markets are improving, and the potential of natural climate solutions funded through them is too great to ignore.

Offsets represent a welcome source of revenue for forest landowners who would otherwise harvest their trees. For conservation groups, offsets promise funding for long-term stewardship.

Amazon pledged last year to be "carbon neutral" by 2040, though it hasn't determined yet how many offset credits—each representing one metric ton of carbon dioxide equivalent—it will need to reach its goal. The company's 2018 greenhouse gas emissions totaled 44.4 million metric tons. It is prioritizing operational changes and new technologies, such as investments in electric delivery vans and renewable energy, to reduce its climate footprint. CEO Jeff Bezos

said last month Amazon has a "challenging but credible plan" to reach 100% renewable energy use by 2025 instead of its earlier 2030 target.

Microsoft, which began investing in carbon offset projects in 2012, earlier this year upped the ante, aiming to become "carbon negative" by 2030, meaning it would finance projects that remove more greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere than it emits, while reducing its direct emissions by half. As part of that strategy, it is focusing more on projects that can remove carbon from the atmosphere (and funding technology development and other projects to the tune of \$1 billion) rather than those that avoid new emissions, such as paying people not to cut down trees. The company said in January it expected to emit 16 million metric tons of carbon in 2020. It expects to buy 2 million offset credits next year and up to 6 million offset credits in 2030.

For forest landowners such as the Sealaska Native Corporation, which runs businesses in Southeast Alaska for the benefit of 22,000 shareholders of Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian

limited timber harvests can continue, provided that they do not reduce the total carbon sequestered on the project below the initial baseline levels.

BP, meanwhile, uses the credits—part of a larger portfolio it has purchased over the last five years from Native American tribes, including a half-million-acre project with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation in northeast Washington—to comply with California's emissions limits.

Developing forest carbon projects was a major undertaking even for a corporation with large forestland holdings, dedicated staff and a long-term view, Mallott said. The cost and complexity has been prohibitive for most smaller landowners—the families, trusts and individuals who control the largest portion, some 38%, of the 822.5 million acres of forests and woodlands across the U.S.

Susan Benedict, whose grandfather bought a roughly 2,000-acre tract of forest 15 miles northeast of State College, Penn., in 1943, first sought to tap the financial value of the carbon stored in her family's

\$10 million contribution to support the work—joining earlier funders including 3M, International Paper and philanthropic foundations—and pledged to buy \$5 million in credits from the resulting projects.

"Amazon is really catalyzing those enabling conditions that certainly will help open up the supply for Amazon's own aspirations, but also increase the opportunities for others," said Lynn Scarlett, The Nature Conservancy's chief of external affairs.

Markets for buying and selling emissions offsets have been around since the early 2000s. In 2012, California began its rigorous cap-and-trade program, allowing companies to comply with greenhouse gas limits by offsetting some of their emissions with forestry and other projects that avoid or reduce emissions.

Now, demand for offsets in the large California market is waning as the state ratchets down the percentage of emissions that companies can offset from 8% of total emissions to 4% beginning next year. The economic collapse has also reduced many companies' direct emissions.

resulting in no net reductions in the bigger global climate equation.

Amazon Employees for Climate Justice leaders warn that communities near Amazon's warehouses and air cargo hubs will continue to suffer from poor local air quality even as the company calls itself "carbon neutral" by way of forestry projects far removed from its operations. "We want zero emissions by 2030, while investing first in the communities most impacted," Maren Costa, a leader of the employee group fired from Amazon in April, said during the company's virtual shareholder meeting last month.

Scarlett notes that offsets are "complements, not substitutes" for direct emissions reductions, and a robust strategy is a prerequisite to working with The Nature Conservancy.

"It's not about simply shifting emissions from one place to another or having a set of vulnerable communities shouldering the burden of emissions—not only greenhouse gases, but associated air pollution that comes from a lot of energy use," Scarlett said.

Offset buyers focused on impact seek projects that are verifiable and durable, said Crider, the Microsoft director. Remote sensing technologies and traditional measurement methods are used to document tree growth and identify illegal logging, forest fires and other occurrences that can erode the purported emissions reductions. (Recent research suggests climate warming is accelerating the loss of old-growth forests.)

"The measurement piece is getting more precise, but it still has a way to go," Crider said.

Microsoft in 2015 invested in a Nisqually Land Trust project to protect 520 acres of forests outside Ashford, Wash., that otherwise might have been clear-cut over time. Now, the project is preparing for its first audit to verify the trees are absorbing as much carbon as projected. It's causing Joe Kane, executive director of the land trust, some trepidation. If a project comes up short of expectations, the owner who was paid in advance for the offset credits is still on the hook—creating a long-term financial risk for project owners.

"If we don't have that carbon, we have to go out and buy it from somebody else," Kane said.

More likely, the forest will sequester even more carbon as the trees grow over the decades, generating additional credits that can be sold to support ongoing stewardship.

Kane said offsets—despite their challenges and uncertainties—have tremendous potential to fund habitat conservation, water management, local economic development, forest climate resiliency and removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

"In the big picture, nothing captures carbon like a tree," Kane said.

Big polluters are spending billions on controversial projects that protect forests and let them keep polluting

By BENJAMIN ROMANO
THE SEATTLE TIMES

descent, the sale of emissions offset credits is a valuable revenue source that aligns with their long-term environmental and business goals. Sealaska collected its last payment in March for the sale of 9.3 million credits to oil supermajor BP for more than \$100 million, helping fund scholarships and a native language program.

In exchange, Sealaska, which had derived a big chunk of its revenue from timber sales during the last 40 years, committed to reducing harvesting on 165,000 acres of Southeast Alaska forests for the next century.

"It allows us to keep healthy forests providing environmental benefits for a hundred years, and we don't have to just forgo operating profit," said Sealaska CEO Anthony Mallott.

While a typical timber harvesting program may generate more revenue per acre than the offset payments, that revenue would be stretched over decades. The carbon project generates revenue immediately, making the two options "pretty even" financially, Mallott said.

The Sealaska carbon project also leaves open the acreage for other uses, including traditional harvesting of spruce tips and berries, and recreation. And, as in most forestry offset projects,

trees more than a decade ago. The up-front costs just to determine whether she would be able to participate ran to \$15,000. "Our property was too small to get the volume to make it work," Benedict said.

Now, Benedict is working with The Nature Conservancy on what is billed as a lower-cost method of developing and monitoring a forest carbon offset project, geared for the financial needs and timelines of smaller landowners. New approaches to sampling and measurement of forest carbon stocks promise to lower costs as much as 75%, according to Nature Conservancy forest carbon scientist Peter Ellis. Contract terms would run to only 20 years. A parallel effort would allow multiple landowners to band together in carbon co-ops, spreading development costs across more acreage.

"It's been on my radar for a long time, but finally there's a program that's actually going to work for me, I think," Benedict said, describing a stand of older trees to be preserved along a stream bank that is habitat for trout, fishers and great horned owls. "This is one that checks a lot of different conservation boxes and mitigates climate change at the same time."

Amazon in April announced a

But the climate change commitments of corporations are supporting demand in voluntary markets, which remain small. There are several voluntary market programs, each with different methodologies for verifying emissions offsets projects, administered by nonprofit groups and international organizations including the United Nations.

Emissions market analysts are also anticipating a major source of new demand from the aviation industry. The International Civil Aviation Organization's industry-wide emissions offsetting program is set to begin in 2021. It could create demand for 2.7 billion tons of emissions offsets in the next 15 years, according to Ecosystem Marketplace, which tracks offsets markets, though the dramatic reduction in travel from the pandemic may depress demand, at least in the near term.

The accounting and verification systems built up around offset markets are getting better at addressing concerns about emissions offsets, market participants said. One concern is that payments may not prompt landowners to adopt practices beyond what they'd do anyway. Another is that projects may cause logging to shift from one forest to another,

A spruce forest in Alaska. Many large landowners commit to forestall logging, or to plant new trees to sequester carbon, generating offset credits that can be sold to polluters.

DREAMTIME/TNS

Life & Style

Trump administration sues to delay release of Bolton book

WASHINGTON

(AP)—The Trump administration sued former national security adviser John Bolton on Tuesday to delay the publication of a book that the White House says contains classified information and that is expected to paint an unfavorable portrait of the president's foreign policy decision-making.

The civil lawsuit in Washington's federal court follows warnings from President Donald Trump that Bolton could face a "criminal problem" if he doesn't halt plans to publish the book, which is scheduled for release next week.

The complaint is the latest salvo in a contentious relationship between Trump and the hawkish Bolton, who was abruptly forced



Bolton

from the White House last September after repeated disagreements on national security matters. It moves their rift into court, where a judge will be asked to decide whether Bolton short-circuited proper procedures to get his book on the market—something his lawyer and publisher have strongly denied.

His publisher, Simon & Schuster, called the lawsuit "nothing more than the latest in a long running series of efforts by the administration to quash publication of a book it deems unflattering to the president." It said in a statement Tuesday evening that Bolton had worked with White House officials to address their concerns, and that it "fully supports his First Amendment right" to tell his story.

Famous feline of 'A Street Cat Named Bob' dies at 14-ish

LONDON (AP)—Bob, a cat whose relationship with the recovering heroin addict who adopted him inspired the book and film "A Street Cat Named Bob," has died. He was at least 14.

Publisher Hodder & Stoughton said Tuesday that Bob had died a day earlier. It said in a statement that he "was an extraordinary cat who will be greatly missed."

Bob's life took him from the streets of London to red carpet premieres as a film star. Musician James Bowen found

the ginger cat abandoned and injured in 2007 and adopted him.

The cat was soon accompanying Bowen as he busked and sold The Big Issue, a magazine that generates income for the homeless, around the British capital.

The pair attracted attention, a local newspaper reporter told their story, and Bowen secured a book deal. "A Street Cat Named Bob" was published in 2012 and became a British best-seller.

Eiffel Tower to reopen after longest closure since WWII

PARIS (AP)—Workers are preparing the Eiffel Tower for reopening next week, after the coronavirus pandemic led to the iconic Paris landmark's longest closure since World War II.

France's tourism industry is opening back up, but the 324-meter (1,063-feet) tall wrought-iron tower won't immediately welcome visitors the way it did before the country went into lockdown in March.

Only limited numbers of people will be allowed in when the Eiffel Tower opens again on June 25. Elevators to the top will be out of service, at least at first, and only the first and second floors will be accessible to the public.

"At first, only visits by the stairs will be available," Victoria Klahr, the spokeswoman



Hundreds of demonstrators gather on the Champs de Mars as the Eiffel Tower is seen in the background during a demonstration in Paris, France, Saturday, June 6, 2020, to protest against the recent killing of George Floyd, a black man who died in police custody in Minneapolis, U.S.A., after being restrained by police officers on May 25, 2020.

AP

for the tower's management, said Tuesday.

Everyone over 11 years old

will be required to wear face masks, and crowd control measures will be in place.

'The Bold and the Beautiful' among first to resume shooting

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Bold and the Beautiful" plans to resume production Wednesday, becoming the first network scripted show to start shooting again after the long layoff brought on by the coronavirus.

The popular CBS daytime drama will begin production again at CBS Television City

in Los Angeles with strict COVID-19 protocols in place as mandated by the state and county, the show's publicist Eva Basler said Tuesday.

California and Los Angeles County officials gave a conditional go-ahead for productions to resume starting June 12.

The show's safeguard's include an independent COVID-19 coordinator on the set, regular testing of everyone involved in production, a staggered and minimized crew, and the requirement of masks and social distance for all except actors when the cameras are rolling.

The show has not yet announced when the first new episode will air.

It's the first network scripted show, and among the first scripted shows of any kind, to resume shooting after the months-long halt in production across the industry.

Consistently among the top-rated soaps on television, the show created by William J. Bell and Lee Phillip Bell began in 1987 as a sister series to "The Young and the Restless."

The book is a collaboration with prize-winning illustrator Juana Martinez-Neal, and will include a recipe by Lakshmi, whose previous works include "Easy Exotic" and "Love, Loss and What We Ate."

'Top Chef' host Padma Lakshmi working on picture book

NEW YORK (AP)—Padma Lakshmi's next book is designed for the children's table.

The "Top Chef" host and best-selling author is working on her first picture book, "Tomatoes for Neela." Viking Children's Books announced

Tuesday that the book is scheduled for fall 2021. According to the publisher, "Tomatoes for Neela" is an intergenerational story about a little girl who likes to cook and helps prepare her family's savory tomato sauce.

"Cooking and the passing

down of food knowledge is one of the most enriching ways I bonded with the women in my family," said Lakshmi said in a statement. "And it's how I bond today with my daughter, passing down skills and advice that I hope will give her a lifetime of healthy

eating long after I am gone."

The book is a collaboration with prize-winning illustrator Juana Martinez-Neal, and will include a recipe by Lakshmi, whose previous works include "Easy Exotic" and "Love, Loss and What We Ate."

Teenager kicked out by dad who thinks she's ungrateful

DEAR ABBY: I am 19 and have been kicked out of my house. I'm grateful for everything my parents have done for me. My dad continues to compare me to my older siblings, although I'm the exact opposite of them. They are not going to college, they barely graduated from high school and continue to abuse alcohol and drugs.

I'm in college earning almost all A's. I graduated from high school with flying colors and have a steady job. I provide for myself (food, gas, buying anything I need) and pay for car insurance. I have tried my hardest to be the best daughter and a good influence for my younger siblings.

I have asked my father multiple times during the last year to stop comparing me to my older siblings. He hasn't. Our last conversation was a few weeks ago, when he told me to pack my stuff and get out of the house because I was an "ungrateful daughter" and "hoeing around just like my older siblings."

I have been focusing on my education and can't understand how he came to that conclusion. Frankly, I was very hurt he thought that of me. I'm not my siblings; I am myself, and I'm doing the best I can to give myself a successful future. My father refuses to see that. What should I do?

BEWILDERED DAUGHTER IN TEXAS

DEAR DAUGHTER: I don't know what's wrong with your father, but something is. You appear to be mature and responsible and doing your best to lay the foundation for a successful future. I applaud you for it.

If it's possible for you to live elsewhere, perhaps with other relatives, and avoid your father's uncalled-for verbal abuse, it might be healthier for you. Do not expect him to be pleased about it, because no matter how hard you try, you may never be able to please him, so be prepared.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I have been dating for three years. The one issue we argue about is religion. I am a Catholic and he's from another Christian denomination. I respect all religions and am open-minded.

However, after going to his church three times, I didn't like it at all. They have many strict rules which, if not obeyed, will result in a person being shunned. What kind of church does that? They compare Catholics to themselves and say everything Catholics do is wrong according to the Bible. I have never felt so unwelcome in my life.

My boyfriend's parents want me to convert, but I don't want to. Because of this, his relationship with his parents is being affected. He plans to quit his church and become an atheist. I don't know how to feel about this. It would be hard to convince him to join my church. We have had many fights over this, and I wonder if we should just break up. That way we wouldn't have to discuss who is converting or where we are going to marry. Please give me some advice.

STRESSED IN THE ISLANDS

DEAR STRESSED: Considering the stance your boyfriend's family's religion has on marrying out of the faith,

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



I'm surprised your relationship has made it this far. Fighting benefits neither of you. Talking about this calmly and rationally might bring you closer.

If he quits his church, his family and friends will make every effort to isolate and punish him. He may have to completely rebuild his social relationships. If he has any sort of religious inclination, rather than him overreacting by "becoming an (instant) atheist," the two of you might like to explore finding a denomination together that fills your needs. But be prepared for push-back because his parents (and possibly yours) are not going to like it.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbook-let Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



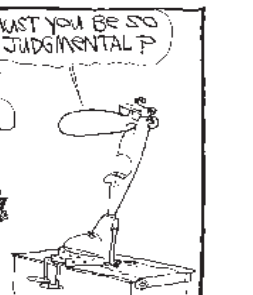
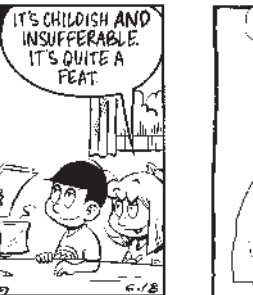
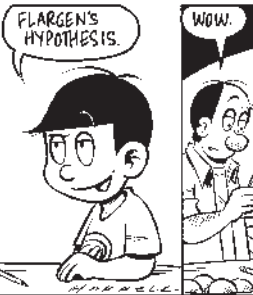
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Actress Kunis
5 "Unh-unh"
8 Belgrade resident
12 Nuptial vows
13 Exist
14 Teen's woe
15 Salty waters
16 24 horas
17 — Bator
18 Jungle expedition
20 Miami — County
22 Measuring devices
26 Bistros
29 Snaky fish
30 Eastern "way"
31 Cattle group
32 Crunchy sandwich
33 Coat with gold
34 A Gershwin brother
35 "Gee, ya think?"
36 Track events

DOWN

1 Avoid
37 Bouncing toys
40 Beer ingredient
41 Porch chair
45 Iowa city
47 Ostrich's kin
49 — mater
50 Glazier's sheet
51 "Way cool!"
52 Notes after "do"
53 Cave creatures
54 Observe
55 Conked out

2 Inventor's inspiration
3 Rye buy
4 Analyzed
5 Bottom
6 "Entou-rage"
7 Football coach's equipment
8 Riyadh resident
9 Diverse
10 Genetic letters
11 Golfer Hogan
19 Univ. dom
21 Pac. counter-part
23 Indian metropolis
24 Curly cabbage
25 Lays down the lawn
26 Intel product
27 Aviation prefix
28 Bit
32 Flatters, with "up"
33 Filling station payment option
35 ISP alternative
36 "King Kong" studio
38 Caravan stops
39 Vulgar
42 Swiss artist Paul
43 Austen heroine
44 Incursion
45 LAPD alert
46 Goat's plaint
48 West of Hollywood

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 6-18

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Blake Shelton, 44; Carol Kane, 68; Isabella Rossellini, 68; Paul McCartney, 78.

Happy Birthday: Look for positive reinforcement, and an unusual opportunity will come your way this year that will help you set off in an unexpected direction. The time spent researching, learning and putting together a plan will be well worth the effort. Don't waste time and energy on regrets. Focus on being successful and implementing the positive changes you desire. Your numbers are 6, 14, 22, 25, 34, 36, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Temptation will lead to a path that has greater versatility and less chance of layoffs and setbacks. Picking up information, degrees, licenses and skills that offer greater opportunity to work from home are favored. Personal gain looks promising. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Look for an opportunity, and you won't be disappointed. Consider what you can accomplish that will set you on a path that offers greater prosperity and authority. What you offer now will reap the rewards later. Honor your promises. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't give up prematurely. Discipline and the power of persuasion will help you get what you want. Gather information, and prepare for anything challenging that comes your way. A personal change will be enlightening. You can put a commitment in place. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Do your best to make a difference for those less fortunate. Consider making a kind gesture,

posting something thoughtful on social media or reaching out to someone you live with. An innovative suggestion will boost your reputation. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Put more effort into making personal adjustments that will improve your life. Don't be fooled by products that promise the impossible. If you want to look your best, put in the work it takes to update your look. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Check out all your options, and make preparations to ensure that when the time is right, you'll be ready to apply or take control of a position that makes you happy. Finding diverse ways to use your skills will pay off. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Pitch in and do your part. Taking care of responsibilities and the ones you love may be laborious, but in the end, you'll be thankful you did, and those you live with will be grateful. Be the one to save the day. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll have an insightful moment that will help you get through difficult times. A unique approach when dealing with the people you spend the most time with will promote greater respect and love. Children and elders will offer truth and wisdom. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep an open mind, but don't let anyone trick you into something that isn't good for you. Take a moment to observe others, and you'll soon realize who is on your side. Personal improvement is favored. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Make adjustments at home that will encourage you and your loved ones to spend more time together. Improving your space to fit the needs of everyone you live with will help bring you closer together. An open discussion will pay off. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't lose sight of your goals. It may be difficult to follow through with your plans, but the preparation you do now will help you move forward quickly when the time is right. Physical improvements will boost your ego. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Taking a different approach to the way you spend your time and how you earn your income will open doors you never knew existed. Pour your heart and soul into something you enjoy doing. A new beginning looks hopeful. ****

Birthday Baby: You are original, helpful and outgoing. You are convincing and intelligent.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	3				8							
2				4						5		
7		9	3		5	1				6		
4										8		
	2								3			
8											7	
5		4	2		9	8				3		
6				3							4	
	7								1			

Difficulty Level ★★★
©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	2	3	7	6	4	1	8	5
6	8	5	1	2	3	7	9	4
7	1	4	9	8	5	6	2	3
8	5	1	6	3	7	2	4	9
4	9	6	2	1	8	3	5	7
3	7	2	5	4	9	8	1	6
5	6	8	3	9	2	4	7	1
1	4	7	8	5	6	9	3	2
2	3	9	4	7	1	5	6	8

WONDERWORD

By DAVID CUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SEABIRDS

S E O S P R E Y S E I C E P S
G N B R E T A W R E D N U E T
N I R G A E T A G I R F A N E
I R E A D R A M L U F D S G R
W A E N I S A L E I I A Q U N
J M D N T C U E N I E H U I I
E N R E N G O E R S K R I N D
A O S T O A T A S I E E D A A
D D L R H A L O S M A W V L E
I D L A T L R K M T T L M O T
C Y I I E T U I D S A E U S D
L B B C A A K R E O S L R S K
A A O B H S T N A R O M R O C
H R L A P E L I C A N F E A O
P A P E T R E L N A E C O R R

© 2000 King Features Syndicate, Inc. www.wonderword.com 6/18
Aerial, Albatross, Alcidae, Bills, Boat, Breed, Coastal, Cormorants, Dovekie, Erne, Food, Frigate, Fulmar, Gannet, Gull, Habitat, Jaeger, Marine, Murre, Nest, Noddy, Ocean, Osprey, Pelican, Penguin, Petrel, Phaethontidae, Procellariidae, Puffin, Rock, Seas, Skimmer, Skua, Soar, Solan, Species, Squid, Sternidae, Underwater, Wings
Yesterday's Answer: Palms
To purchase the WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2, order online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 133 puzzles.)

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

NBA lays out vision for Disney restart



NEW YORK (AP)—Here's some of what awaits NBA players going to Disney next month: game rooms, golf course access, cabanas with misters to combat the heat, fishing areas, bowling, backstage tours and salon services.

It only sounds like vacation.

The NBA described very specific plans to players and teams for the restart on Tuesday, doing so in a memo and handbook both obtained by The Associated Press. With safety being of the foremost importance during the coronavirus pandemic, players were told they will be tested regularly—but not with the deep nasal swabs—and must adhere to strict physical distancing and mask-wearing policies.

The league and the National Basketball Players Association have been working on the terms of how the restart will work for weeks, all while constantly seeking advice from medical experts including Dr. Anthony Fauci, perhaps the best-known physician in the country when it comes to the battle against COVID-19.

"My confidence, it didn't exist at the beginning of this virus because I was so frightened by it," union executive director Michele Roberts told AP. "Now having lived, and breathed, and suffered through the hours and hours of understanding the virus, and listening to our experts, and comparing different alternative protocols, I can't even think of anything else we could do short of hermetically seal the players that would keep them safe."

Later Tuesday, the NBA released its medical protocols to teams, a 108-page file. Among the highlights: players must shower in their individual hotel rooms instead of the game or practice arenas, be part of a contact tracing program, and that it is "recommended that coaches wear face coverings pre-or post-game where feasible."

"The occurrence of a small or otherwise expected number of COVID-19 cases will not require a decision to suspend or cancel the resumption of the 2019-20 season," the NBA wrote.

Most teams will arrive in Florida on July 7, 8 or 9. A person with knowledge of the situation said the reigning champion Toronto Raptors, the lone NBA team based outside of the U.S., will be permitted to gather for some pre-camp workouts—under strict guidelines that other teams will follow in their own cities—before that arrival date. The Raptors are likely to train somewhere in



^{AP}
In this Feb. 15, 2020 file photo, Los Angeles Lakers' Dwight Howard competes in the NBA All-Star slam dunk contest in Chicago.

Florida, said the person who spoke to AP on condition of anonymity because no deal has yet been signed.

For the Raptors, it's been an area of concern largely because of current Canadian government regulations that call for a 14-day quarantine

for people returning to Canada. Some Raptors players are in Toronto right now; some are in the U.S.

Nobody on the NBA's Disney campus, which has been loosely described as a bubble, will be allowed in anyone else's sleeping room. The

NBA also told players and teams that it will work with one or more outside health care companies to provide a medical clinic with X-ray and MRI capability on the campus—critical, since in theory the league would not want players and team staff leaving

and potentially facing coronavirus exposure by going outside of the Disney property for such exams.

The league's plan also spells out how training rooms and meeting rooms will be utilized, the procedures for practice-court usage—three-hour

blocks per team, all scheduled, with one open hour in between sessions for cleaning and sanitizing—and even how team and player laundry will be handled.

It also addresses the polarizing issue of how the league and its players will be able to address social injustice and racial inequality—two issues of constant importance, particularly now across the country.

The NBA said it would be "a central goal of our season restart" to bring attention and what it called "sustained action to issues of social injustice, including combatting systemic racism, expanding educational and economic opportunities across the Black community, enacting meaningful police and criminal justice reform and promoting greater civic engagement."

The league said it remains in talks with the NBPA how best to make that happen. Some NBA players, such as NBPA executive board member Kyrie Irving of the Brooklyn Nets and Los Angeles Lakers center Dwight Howard, have suggested that playing could take away from the movement to spur immediate and dramatic change on racial issues in the country.

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver has said that if a player does not feel comfortable playing at Disney—whether for health reasons or because of the social-justice issues—then he does not have to report with his team and will not be disciplined, other than losing salary for games missed.

The NBA is planning on games in three arenas during the seeding-game portion of the restart, the ones where each of the 22 teams going to the ESPN Wide World of Sports complex will play eight games before the playoffs begin. Teams will be housed in three hotels, with between six and eight teams in each.

Other plans the NBA has for the restart include mental health professionals being available for players and coaches; pregame chapel services, done virtually; yoga and meditation; three meals a day and four meals on game days; and restaurant availability.

Teams can bring up to 35 people as part of the basketball operations group, which includes players, a senior executive, an athletic trainer, a strength and conditioning coach, an equipment manager and security.

Kyrie rumored to suggest players start their own league

Brooklyn Nets star Kyrie Irving doesn't seem to want any part of the NBA's plan to resume the 2019-20 season in Florida next month.

Reports surfaced last week that Irving was a "driving force" in raising concerns over the league's 22-team return plan.

One concern for players involving the return of the season is that playing basketball again would take attention away from systemic racism and police brutality. Over the last few weeks, many players have taken part in peaceful protests and led the call for change after George Floyd's death in Minneapolis late last month.

Irving reportedly was a prominent voice on a conference call featuring many players over the weekend. The Nets guard even brought up the idea of creating a new league in a different discussion with teammates, according to Stefan Bondy of the New York Daily News.

Finally, and most pressing, there's the social unrest gripping the country, specifically pertaining to this country's marginalization of African-Americans. Irving's push to skip the bubble has spawned a debate over whether NBA players could effectively influence social reform while playing, or whether they'd have to boycott to force meaningful change. Irving not only led a discussion with close to 100 union members in a conference call, he also urged Nets players to skip the bubble recently in a separate group chat, the Daily News has learned. In that chat, Irving proposed that players could start their own league, according to a source.

A new league? Irving has said a lot of weird things, and this proposal certainly ranks among those.

Bondy provided more clarification on Irving's comments with this tweet late

Tuesday night.

To be clear on this, Kyrie Irving has proposed to his teammates they should start their own league, and it's not necessarily in response to the bubble situation.

There are valid reasons for players not to participate in the season restart. Players who make the decision not to go must inform their team by June 24, according to Shams Charania of The Athletic.

NBA players have been notified that any player who chooses not to play in resumed 2019-20 season must notify his team by June 24. Compensation would be reduced by 1/92.6 for each game missed.

Meanwhile, Matt Barnes has been vocal on issues of race and its relationship to the NBA.

On Monday, the 14-year NBA veteran weighed in on the Irving latest. He did not hold back.

Speaking on his podcast

with fellow NBA veteran Stephen Jackson, Barnes slammed Irving for his push to tie the resumption of the NBA season to the race relations reckoning taking place in the United States in the aftermath of George Floyd's homicide.

"Kyrie needs to quit bullsh---ing, because what I heard was Kyrie wanted to go to Orlando to support his team," Barnes said. "They didn't let him. So then he flipped the script talking about I'm gonna give up everything."

"You can give up everything and go do the Maya Moore s--- if you really want to. At the same time, sitting out without a cause or a purpose defeats the purpose. And then it also divides us. ... I respect people don't want to play because if it's COVID and you're putting your family at risk, I get that. But if it's for the movement of the country right now, we have to take charge of this." (AP/NBC)

6 owners reportedly don't want 2020 season



NEW YORK—Major League

Baseball's 2020 season, it turns out, could hinge on just how many owners would rather play baseball than skip the season entirely.

At least six owners, according to SNY's Andy Martino, would rather just cancel baseball in 2020 than play. While The Athletic's Ken Rosenthal and Evan Drellich quoted an agent who said there are at least eight owners that would prefer not to play. And the difference in that number could be key.

As backward as it seems: Baseball team owners not wanting a baseball season could actually sink MLB in 2020.

The reason? The league's last-ditch effort to restart baseball if it can't come to an agreement with players would be to mandate a season. A March agreement between MLB and the players' union gives commissioner Rob Manfred power to impose a season of any length of his choosing so long as players are paid prorated salaries equal to the number of games played.

In order to do that, however, Manfred needs 75% of owners to approve the plan.

What's 75% of 30? That would be 22.5—so there's a big difference between six owners not wanting a season and eight owners not wanting a season.

The issue dividing players and owners remains salaries. The March agreement calls for players to get paid prorated salaries, but owners have asked again and again for additional pay cuts, citing a lack of revenue from fans most likely not being in the stands. Players have been steadfast in their refusal of any offer that doesn't include prorated salaries. If all else fails, Manfred and the owners could offer prorated salaries at a number of games that's comfortable to



^{AP}
In this Feb. 29, 2020 file photo, New York Mets' Pete Alonso watches his shot during the third inning of a spring training baseball game against the Houston Astros in West Palm Beach, Fla.

the bottom line—which would get us a season that's potentially fewer than 50 games. Players threw up their hands over the weekend, saying owners are operating in bad faith and have now adopted "Tell us when and where" as a mantra.

The latest stumbling block in this saga came Monday when Manfred backed off his previously guarantee of a 2020 season and said he's now not 100 percent certain. The underlying issue now, a source confirmed to Yahoo Sports, is that owners are concerned that players would file a grievance against the owners saying they did not in good faith pursue the greatest number of games. One of the league's demands is that the players' union waives

its right to a grievance.

It's the threat of a grievance—and a potential billion-dollar price tag if they're found to have been operating in bad faith—that owners fear the most.

The fate of a 2020 season may depend on how many owners' fear of a grievance is stronger than their desire to see baseball on the field.

Is 50-game season legit?

Fresh off a robust round of batting practice in Central Park, softball slugger Todd Montgomery squared up his Mets cap and took a swing at hardball questions involving his favorite team.

Would Jacob deGrom be

worthy of a third straight Cy Young Award if he goes 4-2 with a 1.45 ERA?

Does Pete Alonso get on the hallowed MVP list by hitting 19 home runs?

And the big one: If the New York Mets win the World Series in a 50-game season, does that pennant proudly flap alongside the banners from '69 and '86?

"Fly it high! It counts. It all counts," Montgomery said. "DeGrom doesn't get to have this year back. Whatever you get, it counts."

With a caveat, of course.

"It's abnormal," offered the 60-year-old songwriter who ran the "School of Rock" team in the Broadway Show League. "Everybody 100

years from now will know it was abnormal."

That's if there even is an MLB season, with players and owners currently caught in a bitter dispute over how to start amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Both sides occasionally mention fans, talking about doing right by them. But apart from taking sides, how do the fans fee—would they consider a severely shortened schedule legit?

To some, a limited MLB season would resemble a European soccer round-robin. That's how Brewers fan Matt Tobin from Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, sees it.

"Frankly, a 50-game season is basically a playoff. I play Strat-O-Matic baseball regu-

larly. If you play a third of a season, the numbers are so skewed," he said.

Suppose Christian Yelich got off to an incredibly fast start and wound up batting .402 in 48 games. Would that make him baseball's first .400 hitter since Ted Williams in 1941?

"I think any rate-based stat record—batting average, ERA—would have to be considered an anomaly," Oakland fan Adam Brooks said.

Brooks, an orthopedic surgeon in the East Bay suburb of Walnut Creek, California, had planned to bump up from a partial season-ticket package to a full plan this year.

"I mean a starter could go the whole season without giving up a run. Would we then consider that the best starting pitching season ever? Of course not. The stats in this season would just have to be compared only against itself as a bubble," he said.

Added A's fan Kimberlee MacVicar: "I don't see a reason for an asterisk for an individual game stat."

"If a player hits three home runs or the cycle in a single game, I would count that in their personal stats without an asterisk," she said.

Kay Kenealy of Waukesha, Wisconsin, holds a 20-game ticket package at Miller Park and has her eye on a bigger prize. She would love to see her Brewers win their first World Series title.

"I'm sure there's a lot of purists out there who go, you have to play 162 games or whatever," she said. "But if the season's a month long, you play for that month." (AP/NBC)

NEW JERSEY (AP)—New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo gave the go-ahead Tuesday for the U.S. Open tennis tournament to be held in his state starting in late August — but without spectators — as part of the reopening from shutdowns caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

"You can watch it on TV, and I'll take that," Cuomo said at his daily briefing in Albany.

Now that the U.S. Tennis Association's proposal to hold its marquee event has been accepted—including a "bubble" setup with designated hotels, limited player entourages and a facility closed to the hundreds of thousands of people who usually attend the U.S. Open—the key question be-

US Open to go ahead without spectators

comes: Who actually will end up competing on the blue hard courts in Flushing Meadows from Aug. 31 to Sept. 13?

Some of the sport's top names, including defending U.S. Open men's champion Rafael Nadal along with No. 1-ranked players Novak Djokovic and Ash Barty, have expressed reservations about heading somewhere that was a hot spot for the COVID-19 outbreak. An indoor tennis facility at the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center temporarily housed hundreds of hospital beds at the height of New York's coronavirus crisis.

Others expressed an eager-

ness to return to action: Both the ATP and WTA tours have been suspended since early March because of the virus. The U.S. Open normally is the fourth and final Grand Slam tournament of each season but would be the second major of 2020, following the Australian Open, which concluded in early February.

The start of the clay-court French Open was postponed from May and currently is scheduled to begin a week after the U.S. Open ends. Wimbledon was canceled altogether for the first time since

World War II in 1945.

"Well done @usta for being so forward thinking in getting this done. A great achievement. Players and fans alike are thrilled with this development," tweeted John Isner, the top U.S. man in the rankings at No. 21. "Time to get back on the courts!"

Another American, No. 195 Mitchell Krueger, quoted Isner's comment and wrote: "I can find you about 140+ players that are most certainly not 'thrilled' with this development."

That's a reference to the

USTA's decision to eliminate qualifying rounds that normally give lower-ranked singles players a chance to earn a spot—and extra money—in the U.S. Open field. The USTA is getting rid of qualifying and instead moving the Cincinnati hard-court tournament that it owns to New York ahead of the start of the U.S. Open.

Another reduction for 2020: The men's and women's doubles draws for the U.S. Open each will have 32 teams instead of 64. Overall player compensation for the U.S. Open and Cincinnati tournament, which includes prize money and hotel costs

and \$6.6 million to compensate players who would have been in qualifying in Flushing Meadows, will be \$60 million; that's about \$7 million less than in 2019.

"We recognize the tremendous responsibility of hosting one of the first global sporting events in these challenging times," USTA CEO Mike Dowse said in a statement released shortly after Cuomo's announcement, "and we will do so in the safest manner possible, mitigating all potential risks."

The USTA will take extraordinary precautions to protect players and staff, including robust testing, additional cleaning, extra locker room space, and dedicated housing & transportation.



Ravens hoping for Jackson's repeat MVP season



**B A L T I -
MORE**—Ros-
tered quarter-
backs: Lamar
Jackson, Rob-
ert Griffin III,

Trace McSorley, Tyler Huntley
The Ravens' quarterback room has, in some ways, the most amount of intrigue on the roster—and nearly all of it revolves around Lamar Jackson.

Jackson's 2019 season, his first as a starter, was one of the NFL's most prolific seasons for a quarterback in league history. It's why, even though there won't be a position battle for the starting spot, all eyes will be focused on the quarterback position in 2020.

In his 15-game MVP season, Jackson rushed for 1,206 yards on 176 carries—a rushing record for a quarterback—and threw for 3,127 yards with a 66.1 completion percentage. He

added a league-best 36 touchdowns and threw just six interceptions as he led the Ravens to a 13-2 record as a starter.

Despite a mystifying loss to end the season for the league's best regular season team, Jackson's status as one of the league's most electrifying players was etched into the record books with each dominating win and dumbfounded defender he left in his wake.

Jackson was just the league's second ever unanimous MVP, but while his season was one for the record books, repeating his standout season is another matter entirely. And simply, it's a mathematical problem.

The Ravens' offense led the league in total points with a scorching 33.2 per-game average. The team also averaged 6.1 yards per play, including a league-high 5.5 yards per rush attempt. The defense ranked



AP
In this Jan. 6, 2019 file photo, Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson, right, rushes against Los Angeles Chargers free safety Derwin James in the second half of an NFL wild card playoff game in Baltimore.

MORE

From Page 20

Qualifier in Laos (in 2015)," the CNMI head coach said.

"He is very committed, a hard worker, and very enthusiastic to improve himself. He never missed training. He always ask me questions after our training or game if he did not understand some things during our training," Mita added.

The NMIFA official also praises Austria's leadership skills and his demeanor on and off the pitch.

"He has a sense of responsibility. He always talks to other players when the team is having a hard training and he always show his 100% in the game and practice and leads other players. He was selected the NMIFA grassroots ambassador in 2019, as he is a role model to the CNMI kids," Mita said.

"What impressed me the most about him is his humility. He is humble even though he has achieved many things in

his early age. I saw many cases of players stop working hard or having too much confidence once he/she achieved one thing and later they stop improving and did not succeed," the Blue Ayuyus coach added.

Mita credited Austria's club coaches (TanHoldings Football Club), former CNMI mentor Kiyoshi Sekiguchi, assistant coach Jerish Angeles, and the young player's parents for the 19-year-old's success. The current CNMI coach also wishes to see more players from the islands get a chance to play in the collegiate level.

"We have many young potential players like Thaiphi who are capable of playing in college because we have a good youth development system. Also, we have NMIFA, which keeps supporting our players and working on youth develop with consistency—that is crucial. But, in the end, what's important is the player's ambition and character plus the parents' support."

third in the league in points (17.6 per game) and allowed just 4.4 yards-per-play.

While the Ravens didn't lose much talent on either side of the ball, improving upon those numbers across the board might be nearly impossible - unless the expectation is that the Ravens become one of the best single-season teams in NFL history.

Meaning, Jackson's numbers have a ceiling. Throwing more passes, something the Ravens have commented on in the past, would certainly improve his passing numbers, but breaking record after record each season is simply impractical. It's for that reason that if Jackson's rushing numbers aren't as high as 2019, or if his passing numbers don't take much of a leap, there isn't reason to panic.

Baltimore drafted former Ohio State running back J.K. Dobbins with the 55th pick in the draft, which could give the team another option in the run

game besides Jackson. In that regard, the team might be just as efficient with not as many carries for Jackson.

No matter the case, there isn't a debate as to who the Ravens' face of the franchise is.

As for the depth behind him, however, that's a much trickier question.

Griffin III, McSorley, and Huntley are the other three quarterbacks on the roster, the trio that will compete to be Jackson's backup and then third-option on the roster. Griffin has a grip on the backup job entering training camp.

Griffin, 30, played in seven games last season and made one start, in Week 17 against the Steelers. Over his seven games, he threw 38 passes and completed 23 of them for 225 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions. He rushed 20 times for 70 yards. He's signed to a contract worth just 1.3 percent of the cap in 2020, but is entering the last year of his deal.

McSorley was the third man on the totem pole in 2019 and played just one snap in his rookie season. The former Penn State quarterback was a figure on special teams as the Ravens used him on different types of coverage units in practice.

Huntley is the newcomer to the quarterback room as an undrafted free agent out of Utah. He was a starter for three years at Utah and proved a dual-threat option for the Utes, as he helped propel them into the national title conversation. He posted his best season in 2019, when he threw for 3,092 yards with a 73.1 completion percentage. He added 19 touchdowns and just four interceptions with 290 yards on the ground and five rushing scores.

Despite the intrigue at the back half of the depth chart,

Huntley certainly hasn't been helped by the lack of an off-season. As an undrafted free agent, the odds are already stacked against him earning the third spot on the roster.

The Ravens kept three quarterbacks on the roster last year, and should they decide to do the same in 2020, McSorley and Huntley would battle for the third spot on the roster. If the Ravens decide to keep just two quarterbacks this season, however, they could try and slide either McSorley or Huntley, or both in an unlikely case, onto the practice-squad.

And if Jackson is able to repeat his performance from the 2019 season, or even come close to it, there isn't anything that the Ravens' offense needs to concern itself over. (AP/NBC)

MATCH

From Page 20

first and foremost because he's a really, really, really good guy. He's a family man and really easy to get along with. Secondly, he's extremely talented and always puts on very exciting performances. We're really grateful to be on his team," Iridium Sports' Ed Kapp said.

As always, Camacho dedicates his upcoming fight to his family and supporters back home.

"Thank you to my wife for holding down the fort back home. I miss everyone. I'm out here ready to crank it up and represent the Marianas and myself to the best of my ability. Biba Marianas!" said Camacho, who will be gunning for win No. 23 against Frevola (8-1-1).



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Frank "The Crank" Camacho, left, will take on Matt "The Steamrolla" Frevola at UFC Fight Night 173 at the UFC Apex in Las Vegas, Nevada this weekend.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Frank "The Crank" Camacho gestures after a workout at the UFC gym in Las Vegas last weekend.



NBA lays out vision for Disney restart

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune Sports

6 owners reportedly don't want 2020 season

PAGE 18



20 THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2020

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

'The Crank' set for no-crowd match

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Frank "The Crank" Camacho will step on uncharted territory when he takes on Matt "The Steamrolla" Frevola at UFC Fight Night 173 at the UFC Apex in Las Vegas, Nevada this weekend.



Used to the octagon cage surrounded by a rowdy crowd, Camacho will be fighting on the eight sides without spectators for the first time. UFC, since resuming its bouts, has been implementing a no-crowd policy as safety precaution against the COVID-19 virus.

"There will be no crowd. So it will be sort of a glorified



MMAJUNKIE PHOTO
Frank "The Crank" Camacho, left, unleashes a shot to Germany's Nick "Sergeant" Hein during their bout in the UFC Fight Night 153 in Stockholm, Sweden last year.

sparring match. From what other fighters say, you can hear almost everything—coaches, other coaches, and clearly you can hear the fighters breathing," said the Marianas warrior,

who will face Frevola on June 20 (June 21 Saipan time) in his opener for the season.

"I am kind of curious as to how it's going to be not having a crowd of 10-15K yelling. This

fight is going to feel like it's just in the gym," Camacho added.

The 31-year-old fighter also said that UFC is implementing other protocols that they have never seen before.

"The check-in process is so different. The UFC has a whole hotel booked for their fighters and staff. Upon arrival we get tested. It's just a whole different way of circumstance," said Camacho.

Despite of these "new normal," the Team Oyama stand-out is all set for the lightweight bout and looking for an early finish against Frevola, who is known for his aggressiveness right at the get-go but won most of his fights via distance.

"Frevola is a fast-starter. But it's a fight so I'm prepared for everything. All I know is it's going to be an exciting one. I am always going for the finish! So being smart, collected, and tactical will be key," Camacho said.

"The few final days leading up to the bout are really for just getting the weight off. The turkey is cooked. It's about time to eat!" he added.

Meanwhile, backing up Camacho in his seventh UFC match and first in his new four-fight deal with the MMA promotion company, is Iridium Sports Agency.

"I want to thank Iridium Sports Agency, my manager Jason House and coach Oyama (Colin) for putting all this together during these trying times. I'm very grateful for the opportunity," Camacho said.

Iridium Sports expects another exciting performance from the Marianas pride and has all praises for Camacho for his demeanor on and off the cage.

"We partnered with Frank

See MATCH on Page 19

More college-bound players, one proud coach

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Michiteru Mita can't help but be proud of having another CNMI player heading to the collegiate level.

Mita was talking about Thaiphai Austria, a member of the CNMI U19 National Team and has recently signed up to play for Trine University in the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

"I first met Thaiphai in 2017. The U17 National Team held a training camp in Japan and I clearly remembered him because he was the youngest player selected on the team for that camp. Also, I heard later that he was youngest player (he was 13 years old that time) to play for the CNMI in the AFC U16 Championship

See MORE on Page 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this file photo, the CNMI's Thaiphai Austria moves away from his defender during a training camp in Japan.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI coach Michiteru Mita checks on his players before heading out of the field during a practice session in Phnom Penh, Cambodia last year.